OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JANUARY 2015

MONTHLY THEME: **'Slave for the Lord with all humility.'—Acts 20:19.**

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 12

Song 114 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 18 ¶20-24, box on p. 188 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Joshua 21-24 (8 min.)

No. 1: Joshua 24:14-21 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: King Ahaz—Theme: Idolatry Brings God's Disfavor—*it*-1 pp. 61-62 (5 min.)

No. 3: Jehovah Is the All-Powerful Creator —*nwt* p. 6 ¶4–p. 7 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 61

10 min: Slave for the Lord With All Humility. Discussion. Read Acts 20:19. Then invite comments on the following questions: (1) What does the verb "slave" imply? (2) What are some ways that we can slave for the Lord? (3) What is humility? (4) How does humility help us to accomplish our ministry?

20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to an Irate Householder." Discussion. After discussing the article, have a brief, realistic two-part demonstration. First show a publisher not responding well to an irate householder. Then show the publisher responding in a more skillful way. Encourage all to follow the suggestions under "Try This During the Month."

Song 76 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to an Irate Householder

Why Important: Many that we meet in the ministry are polite. However, Jesus prophesied that some people will hate us. (John 17: 14) Therefore, it should not surprise us if we encounter an irate householder. When this occurs, we want to respond in a way that pleases the one whom we represent, Jehovah. (Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Pet. 3:15) Doing so will likely prevent the situation from escalating. It will also give a witness to the householder and any observers, making them more inclined to listen the next time Jehovah's Witnesses visit.—2 Cor. 6:3.

How to Do It:

- Maintain a calm and friendly demeanor. This will help defuse the situation. Do not take the householder's reaction personally. (Eccl. 7:9) He may be upset because of personal problems or because you happened to call at the wrong time. Even if he is irritated by our message, often this is because he has been misled.—2 Cor. 4:4.
- Reply with mild and gracious words. (Prov. 15:1) Did you wake him up or interrupt him? Although we do not apologize for our work, you could humbly apologize for calling at an inopportune time. Is he angry because of an untrue rumor that he has heard about us? If so, you might say: "I can understand why that would upset you. However, it seems that what you have heard about us is not accurate. May I explain?" Does he object to one of our beliefs, perhaps regarding disfellowshipping or blood? You could say: "I understand. Others have expressed the same concerns. May I show you from the Bible the basis for that teaching?"
- If the person is *highly* agitated, it may be best to take your leave without trying to reply. If he asks that Jehovah's Witnesses not visit him again, you can assure him that his wishes will be honored.

Try This During the Month:

- Have practice sessions during your family worship.
- After leaving an irate householder, discuss with your partner how you might have responded in a better way.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 19

Song 47 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 19 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 1-4 (8 min.)
No. 1: Judges 3:1-11 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: How Can You Learn About God?—*nwt* p. 8 ¶1-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: Ahithophel—Theme: Jehovah Thwarts the Schemes of Traitors—*it*-1 pp. 65-66 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 77
10 min: Are You Using the Glossary? Discussion based on the following questions: (1) How can the glossary in the revised *New World Translation* help us when reading (a) Exodus 28:30, (b) Matthew 16:6, and (c) 2 Peter 2:4? (2) How can we use the glossary to help our Bible student clearly understand such terms as (a) "covenant," (b) "ransom," and (c) "soul"? Conclude by encouraging all to make use of this tool.
10 min: Slaving for the Lord Requires Persistence and Initiative. Discussion based on the *2014 Yearbook,* page 59, paragraph 1, to page 62, paragraph 1; and page 67, paragraph 2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: "Keep Progressing as a Minister." Questions and answers.
Song 20 and Prayer

Keep Progressing as a Minister

[1] Christians should progress as ministers. That is why Jesus gave his followers progressive training in the preaching work. (Luke 9: 1-5; 10:1-11) It is also why Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos into their company and "explained the way of God more accurately to him." (Acts 18:24-26) For the same reason, Paul encouraged the experienced evangelizer Timothy to continue applying himself to his teaching, so that his advancement would be "plainly seen by all people." (1 Tim. 4:13-15) No matter how long we have been slaving for the Lord as publishers of the good news, we need to continue sharpening our preaching skills.

1. What examples from the first century indicate that we should progress as ministers?

[2] **Learn From Others:** One way to hone our skills is to learn from others. (Prov. 27: 17) Therefore, pay attention when fellow publishers give their presentation. Ask for specific suggestions from effective preachers, and listen carefully to what they say. (Prov. 1:5) Are you unsure about how to make a return visit, start a Bible study, or engage in some other aspect of the ministry? Take the initiative, and ask your group overseer or an experienced publisher for training. Remember, too, that Jehovah's holy spirit can enhance our abilities, so ask for it regularly in prayer.—Luke 11:13.

[3] Do not get offended if you receive a suggestion for improvement, even if it is unsolicited. (Eccl. 7:9) Like Apollos, accept the help with humility and gratitude. Doing so shows wisdom.—Prov. 12:15.

[4] **Progress Glorifies God:** By way of illustration, Jesus encouraged his followers to progress as ministers. He compared himself to a vine and his anointed followers to branches. He said that the Father cleans every branch bearing fruit "so that it may *bear more fruit."* (John 15:2) Just as the owner of a vineyard desires the branches of his grapevines to be more productive, Jehovah wants us to continue growing in our ability to produce "the fruit of our lips." (Heb. 13:15) What is the satisfying result when we make progress as an evangelizer? Jesus gives us the answer: "My Father is glorified in this, that you keep bearing much fruit."—John 15:8.

2. How can we learn from others?
3. How should we react if we receive a suggestion, perhaps unsolicited?
4. What powerful reason did Jesus give for progressing as an evangelizer?

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WEEK STARTING JANUARY 26

Song 99 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 19 ¶9-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 5-7 (8 min.)
No. 1: Judges 7:12-25 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Amnon—Theme: Selfish Erotic Love Is Ruinous—*it*-1 p. 96 (5 min.)
No. 3: Ways in Which We Can Learn About Jehovah—*nwt* p. 9 ¶1-4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 88
10 min: The Offer for January and February. Discussion. Invite audience to relate positive experiences they have had offering the *Good News* brochure. Have a brief demonstration showing how the brochure may be offered. Afterward, discuss the article "Why Depart Promptly?"
10 min: Elders Who Slave for the Lord—The *Watchtower* Study Conductor. Interview of the *Watchtower* Study conductor based on these questions: What does caring for your assignment involve? How do you prepare for the *Watchtower* Study? Why are you not able to call on everyone who raises his hand to comment? How can the reader, those who comment, and the brothers who carry the microphones assist in making the *Watchtower* Study beneficial and enjoyable? How did the recent Kingdom Ministry School help you to better care for this important responsibility?
10 min: "Use jw.org in Your Ministry—'Become Jehovah's Friend.'" Discussion. Review some of the features of this section of our Web site, and play a sample for the audience. Invite the audience to suggest ways to use "Become Jehovah's Friend" when witnessing from house to house, publicly, or informally.
Song 135 and Prayer

Why Depart Promptly?

When we meet for field service, we are among our brothers and it is normal to want to converse. However, once the meeting ends, we should try to depart for the territory promptly. Our preaching work is urgent. (2 Tim. 4:2) The longer we delay, the less time we will have for the ministry. We will have plenty of opportunity to enjoy upbuilding association with fellow publishers as we work with them in the ministry. Our departing for the ministry without lingering shows industriousness as we slave for Jehovah and his Son. —Rom. 12:11.

Use jw.org in Your Ministry —"Become Jehovah's Friend"

The "Bible Teachings" section of jw.org has a feature for children called "Become Jehovah's Friend" that includes songs, videos, and activities. Have you used this feature in your ministry? If you are studying the Bible with a parent who has young children, why not show it to him? This may move him to explore other areas of our Web site.

While distributing *Kingdom News* No. 38, one brother met a woman who began reading the tract as soon as he handed it to her. She had several young children who were curious about the tract. The brother briefly discussed its contents and pointed out our Web address on the back. Since the woman showed interest, he took the opportunity to play one of the Caleb videos for her and her children, using his mobile device.

A sister told a workmate with young children about our Web site and the information it contains for families. The woman looked up jw.org along with her children. Later, she told the sister that her children were going around the house singing "Preach the Word," one of the songs from "Become Jehovah's Friend."

Become familiar with this feature of jw.org, and download one of the videos, songs, or activities to your mobile device. Then you will be ready to use this section of jw.org in the ministry. What a valuable tool to help us slave for the Lord!—Acts 20:19.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 2

Song 109 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 19 ¶18-23, box on p. 198 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 8-10 (8 min.)
No. 1: Judges 8:13-27 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Who Wrote the Bible?—*nwt* p. 10 ¶1-5 (5 min.)
No. 3: Andrew—Theme: Not Prominent, But Approachable and Faithful —*it*-1 p. 105 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 110
10 min: Offer the Magazines During February. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to an Irate Householder." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.
New song "Grant Us Boldness" and Prayer
Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **January and February:** *Good News From God!* or *Was Life Created?* **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ The title of the public talk to be given by the circuit overseer during the second half of the 2015 service year is "The Scene of This World Is Changing."

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM February 1

"We're giving this tract to everyone in the area today. It explains the practical value of the Bible. Here is your copy. [Hand the householder the tract *How Do You View the Bible?*] Some have wondered if the Bible contains practical advice that can help them on their job. Notice what this verse says about work. [Read Ecclesiastes 3:13.] This magazine outlines some Bible principles that can help us find joy in our work. Would you like to read it?"

Awake!® February

"We are visiting briefly to show our neighbors the current issue of *Awake!* It considers the answer to an intriguing question. [Show the cover.] I would like to get your opinion on this example mentioned in the magazine. [Read Proverbs 29:11.] Do you think this Bible principle is relevant today? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses four Bible principles and explains how we can benefit from applying them."

Was Life Created?

"Do you think it is more reasonable to believe that God created life or that life began by chance and evolved? [Allow for response.] Our personal beliefs about how life began can have a major impact on how we view the future. For instance, notice the thoughts of one evolutionist. [Read the quote on page 29 from William B. Provine.] On the other hand, those who believe God created all things have a bright hope for the future." Refer to paragraph 4 on page 29, read Psalm 37:10, 11, and offer the brochure.

Field Service Highlights

As part of a special initiative to reach people living in isolated areas, ten temporary special pioneers were assigned in July 2014 to preach to individuals in the cities of Barrow, Dillingham, Haines, Nome, and Skagway, Alaska. Contemplating the effort being put forth to reach all with the good news motivates us to thoroughly work our assigned territory. —Matt. 10:11.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 2015

MONTHLY THEME: Be "Zealous for Fine Works"!—Titus 2:14.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 9

Song 9 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 20 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 11-14 (8 min.)
No. 1: Judges 13:15-25 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Annas—Theme: Hateful Opposition to the Truth Is Futile—*it*-1 pp. 112-113 (5 min.)
No. 3: Is the Bible Scientifically Accurate?—*nwt* p. 11 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 54
15 min: "Why Be 'Zealous for Fine Works'?" Discussion. Include comments on the June 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* page 23, paragraphs 17-19.
15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing Through an Intercom." Discussion. Include cited experiences, and invite publishers to relate any local experiences regarding how some householders have responded favorably when witnessed to through an intercom. Have a brief demonstration showing how to apply the suggestions.
Song 33 and Prayer

Why Be "Zealous for Fine Works"?

Are you zealous for fine works? As Kingdom publishers, we have every reason to be. Why? Consider what we read at Titus 2:11-14:

- Verse 11: What is "the undeserved kindness of God," and how have we personally benefited from it?—Rom. 3:23, 24.
- Verse 12: How have we been trained by God's undeserved kindness?
- Verses 13 and 14: Now that we have been cleansed, what hope do we have? And for what greater purpose have we been cleansed from the world's ungodly conduct?
- How do these verses stimulate you to be zealous for fine works?

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing Through an Intercom

Why Important: Witnessing through an intercom can be intimidating. How can we avoid letting this challenge dampen our zeal for fine works? Keep in mind that witnessing through an intercom may be the only way to reach some people with the good news. (Rom. 10:14) Experience has shown that an effective witness can be given this way. (See the *2011 Yearbook,* pp. 65-66, and the *2000 Yearbook,* p. 54, par. 3.) Consider the following suggestions.

How to Do It:

- Prepare a *brief* presentation, and write it out so that you can read it directly to the householder through the intercom. This can boost your confidence. At the outset, explain the purpose of your visit. Use the householder's name if it is shown on the directory. Conclude by offering to deliver (or leave in the person's door) a tract or a magazine that will provide more information.
- Maintain a positive viewpoint. Smile and gesture as if you were speaking face-to-face with the person.
- Relax and be conversational. Speak clearly and with good volume. Avoid unnecessary pauses, but do not speak too fast.
- Use good judgment. In large buildings, there may be many intercoms. Perhaps you could choose just three or so to ring, take note of where you left off, and then leave. Residents of the building may become alarmed if we linger in the foyer in order to ring every intercom.

Try This During the Month:

- During family worship have practice sessions with the participants facing away from each other.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 16

Song 80 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 20 ¶8-15 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 15-18 (8 min.)
No. 1: Judges 16:13-24 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Is the Bible's Message?—*nwt* p. 12 ¶1-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: Apollos—Theme: A Man of Humility, Eloquence, and Zeal—*it*-1 pp. 125-126 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 92
15 min: Prepare to Proclaim the Good News Zealously. Discussion. Why is praying to Jehovah the first step in preparing for the ministry? (Ps. 143:10; Acts 4:31) In addition to prayer, what else is needed? (Ezra 7:10) After preparing ourselves spiritually, what practical steps should we take to organize our literature and our service bags? What positive effect does being prepared have on us? (See *The Watchtower,* July 15, 2008, p. 10, par. 9.) How do you prepare for the ministry? Have a publisher demonstrate how he prepares for the ministry by reviewing the tracts, magazines, or brochures that he will be using. He then organizes his service bag and makes sure that his electronic device is ready to play. Emphasize that all should be well-prepared when going in the ministry. (2 Tim. 3:17)
15 min: "During This Memorial Season, Will You Imitate the Zeal of Jehovah and Jesus?" Questions and answers. Distribute a copy of the Memorial invitation to each person in the audience, and discuss its contents. Have a brief demonstration, using the sample presentation on page 4.
Song 30 and Prayer

During This Memorial Season, Will You Imitate the Zeal of Jehovah and Jesus?

1 Jehovah accomplishes his purpose with zeal. Referring to some of the blessings of God's Kingdom, Isaiah 9:7 says: "The zeal of Jehovah of armies will do this." Similarly, during his earthly ministry, God's Son demonstrated great zeal for true worship. (John 2:13-17; 4:34) Each year during the Memorial season, millions of publishers around the world make a special effort to imitate the zeal of Jehovah and Jesus by increasing their activity in the ministry. Will you be among them?

1. What do Jehovah's Witnesses make a special effort to do during the Memorial season?

2 **Memorial Campaign:** This year's campaign to advertise the Memorial will begin on Saturday, March 7. Plan now to have a zealous share in the ministry. Congregations will be abuzz with excitement as they actively share in covering as much of their territory as possible. Make a concerted effort to invite your Bible students, return visits, workmates, relatives, and schoolmates by giving them an invitation or by using jw.org.

3 **Auxiliary Pioneer:** Zeal will also motivate us to expand our ministry. No doubt many will be able to auxiliary pioneer during March and April, since we will have the option of choosing the 30-hour requirement. During your family worship or personal study, give prayerful consideration to how you can do this. (Prov. 15:22) Your enthusiasm for this campaign can stimulate others to zealous activity. If you make personal adjustments in order to do more, you will be imitating the zeal of Jesus.—Mark 6:31-34.

4 Our imitating the zeal of Jehovah and Jesus during this Memorial season will bring rich rewards. Many more in the territory will receive a witness. We will experience the joy and satisfaction that comes from serving Jehovah and giving to others. (Acts 20:35) Most important, we will please our zealous God and his Son.

2. What will zeal motivate us to do beginning on March 7?
3. How can we expand our ministry during March and April?
4. What rewards come from imitating the zeal of Jehovah and Jesus?

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WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 23

Song 21 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 20 ¶16-21, box on p. 207 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Judges 19-21 (8 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 75
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: Be Zealous for True Worship Like Jesus. Talk based on the May 15, 2013, *Watchtower,* page 8, paragraph 2, and the December 15, 2010, *Watchtower,* pages 9-11, paragraphs 12-16. Emphasize how preaching is a 'fine work' that Christians are privileged to do. (Titus 2:14) Mention how our knowing the truth moves us to preach the good news zealously and to conduct Bible studies. Commend the congregation for the zeal they have shown for fine works.
10 min: "Proclaim the Truth About Jesus With Zeal." Discussion. Have a publisher demonstrate "Scenario 1" in *The Watchtower* of May 15, 2014, on page 8 in paragraph 8, and include the illustration outlined on page 9 in paragraph 13.
Song 5 and Prayer

Proclaim the Truth About Jesus With Zeal

Our zeal increases when we know how to share the truth about Jesus with others. Jesus is the foundation cornerstone on which true faith is built. (Eph. 2:20) Without him, we would have no hope for life. (Acts 4:12) Therefore, it is important that all recognize Jesus' position in God's purpose. Many have been misled by unscriptural doctrines. Sadly, they stand to lose out on the promises God's Word holds out to those who exercise faith in Jesus. Our zeal for the truth will move us to help honesthearted ones to gain a correct understanding of Jesus, his relationship to God, and his role in God's purpose. During this Memorial season, will you zealously proclaim the truth about Jesus?

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 23, 2015.

1. How did the cities of refuge in ancient Israel differ from pagan sanctuaries for fugitive criminals? (Josh. 20:2, 3) [Jan. 5, *w10* 11/1 p. 15 pars. 4-6]
2. Why could Joshua say the words recorded at Joshua 23:14 with complete confidence, and why can we have absolute confidence in Jehovah's promises? [Jan. 12, *w07* 11/1 p. 26 par. 19]
3. Why was Judah designated to be the first tribe to take possession of the land allotted to it? (Judg. 1:2, 4) [Jan. 19, *w05* 1/15 p. 24 par. 5]
4. Why did Barak insist that the prophetess Deborah go with him to the battlefield? (Judg. 4:8) [Jan. 19, *w05* 1/15 p. 25 par. 4]
5. What is indicated by the name that Gideon gave to the altar he constructed, and what can we learn from this? (Judg. 6:23, 24) [Jan. 26, *w14* 2/15 pp. 22-23 par. 9]
6. What can we learn from Gideon's response to the quarrelsome Ephraimites? (Judg. 8:1-3) [Feb. 2, *w05* 7/15 p. 16 par. 4]
7. When making his vow, did Jephthah have a human sacrifice in mind? (Judg. 11:30, 31) [Feb. 9, *w05* 1/15 p. 26 par. 1]
8. According to Judges 11:35-37, what enabled Jephthah's daughter to fulfill her father's vow? [Feb. 9, *w11* 12/15 pp. 20-21 pars. 15-16]
9. When there was no king in Israel and "each one was doing what was right in his own eyes," did such circumstances foster anarchy? Explain. (Judg. 17:6) [Feb. 16, *w05* 1/15 p. 27 par. 8]
10. What lesson about persevering in prayer might we learn from the account about the Israelites suffering defeat twice by the wayward tribe of Benjamin? (Judg. 20:14-25) [Feb. 23, *w11* 9/15 p. 32 pars. 1-4]

WEEK STARTING MARCH 2

Song 5 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 21 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ruth 1-4 (8 min.)
No. 1: Ruth 3:14–4:6 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Aquila—Theme: Preach With Zeal and Be Hospitable—*it*-1 p. 138 (5 min.)
No. 3: The Humility and Power of Christ the King—*nwt* p. 12 ¶5–p. 13 ¶4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 121
10 min: Offer the Magazines During March. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Encourage all to become well-acquainted with the magazines.
10 min: "Zealously Motivate One Another to Fine Works." Discussion. Highlight how the monthly theme was emphasized during the Service Meetings in February.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing Through an Intercom." If applicable, ask publishers how they were able to give a witness through an intercom.
New song "Jehovah Is Your Name" and Prayer
Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Zealously Motivate One Another to Fine Works

Hebrews 10:24 encourages us to "consider one another so as to incite ["motivate," ftn.] to love and fine works." We can motivate our brothers by the example we set and by our expressions of faith. Share your good experiences with others in the congregation. Let them see the joy you feel in serving Jehovah. At the same time, avoid unfavorably comparing them to yourself or others. (Gal. 6:4) Seek to use your strengths to motivate others to *"love* and fine works," not *guilt* and fine works. (See the *Ministry School* book, p. 158, par. 4.) If we incite to *love,* then the works—such as doing good to others materially or preaching—will follow.—2 Cor. 1:24.

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Good News From God!* or *Was Life Created?* **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **May:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The special public talk for the 2015 Memorial season is entitled "A Promise of Perfect Family Happiness."

Sample Presentations

For the Memorial Invitation Campaign

"We're distributing this invitation to a very important event. On April 3, millions around the world will gather to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and to hear a free discourse about how his death benefits us. This invitation shows the time and location of the meeting being held in our community."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM March 1

"April 3 marks the anniversary of the death of Jesus Christ. Some in our community will meet on this date to commemorate the occasion, but there are others who do not think that Jesus' death was significant. What's your opinion? Do you think Jesus' death and resurrection benefit us? [Allow for response.] Notice what God's Word says about this. [Read 1 Corinthians 15:22, 26.] This magazine discusses a future benefit of Jesus' ransom sacrifice—namely, that one day no one on earth will die."

Awake!® March

"We are making brief visits on our neighbors to show them the current issue of *Awake!* [Show the cover.] Everyone has his own viewpoint on this first question: 'Is there a God?' In your opinion, who has a more positive view of the future—those who believe in God or those who don't? [Allow for response.] Here is a promise from God that gives many people hope. [Read Psalm 37:10, 11.] This magazine outlines four reasons to investigate whether God exists."

Field Service Highlights

We are thrilled to report four new publisher peaks during the special campaign month of August 2014! The Bahamas reported 1,875 publishers, Bermuda reported 544 publishers, the Turks and Caicos Islands reported 338 publishers, and the United States reported 1,243,387 publishers. Also, the Bahamas had a new peak of 218 regular pioneers, and Puerto Rico had a new peak of 3,297 regular pioneers. Certainly, Jehovah is 'speeding up' the Kingdom-preaching work during this time of the end!—Isa. 60:22.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MARCH 2015

MONTHLY THEME: "Be Ready for Every Good Work."—Titus 3:1.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 9

Song 44 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 21 ¶9-15 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 1-4 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Samuel 2:30-36 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Did the Bible Foretell About the Messiah?—*nwt* p. 14 (5 min.)
No. 3: Asa (No. 1)—Theme: Be Zealous for Pure Worship—*it*-1 pp. 183-185 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 45
10 min: "Be Ready for Every Good Work." Talk based on the monthly theme. Read and discuss Proverbs 21:5, Titus 3:1, and 1 Peter 3:15. Explain how good preparation benefits Christians. Briefly preview some of the Service Meeting parts for the month, and discuss how they relate to the monthly theme.
10 min: Interview the Theocratic Ministry School Overseer. What does caring for your assignment involve? How do you prepare to conduct the school each week? Why should students prepare well for their assignments? What benefits will the audience receive from reading over the material before coming to the meeting?
10 min: "Are You Preparing for the Memorial?" Discussion. Briefly review information from page 2 of the March 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Include a demonstration showing a publisher welcoming a visitor to the Memorial.
Song 8 and Prayer

Are You Preparing for the Memorial?

It was Nisan 13 of 33 C.E. Jesus knew that he had one final evening to spend with his closest associates before his execution. He would celebrate his last Passover with them and then institute a new observance, the Lord's Evening Meal. Such an important occasion certainly required preparation. Therefore, he dispatched Peter and John to get things ready. (Luke 22:7-13) Every year since then, it has been necessary for Christians who desire to observe the Memorial to prepare for this event. (Luke 22:19) What basic things should we do to prepare for the upcoming Memorial on April 3?

Preparation by the Elders:

- Make arrangements to use the Kingdom Hall or another suitable facility. It should have sufficient seating, lighting, and ventilation. Arrange to have the venue thoroughly cleaned in advance.
- Select a qualified speaker, a chairman, and brothers to pray over the emblems.
- If there will be more than one program at the same facility, coordinate the meeting times as well as the arrangements for entering and exiting the building and parking lot.
- Select and organize the attendants and servers.
- Arrange to have the appropriate emblems, as well as plates, wine glasses, a suitable table, and a tablecloth.

Preparation by the Publishers:

- Arrange to have a full share in the Memorial invitation campaign.
- Make a list of Bible students, relatives, schoolmates, workmates, and other acquaintances, and invite them.
- Read and meditate on the Memorial Bible reading.
- Come to the Memorial ready to welcome visitors.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 16

Song 65 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 21 ¶16-21, box on p. 217 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 5-9 (8 min.)

No. 1: 1 Samuel 6:10-21 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: Athaliah (No. 1)—Theme: Beware of the Jezebel Influence—*it*-1 p. 209 (5 min.)

No. 3: Messianic Prophecies That Jesus Fulfilled—*nwt* p. 15 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 98

10 min: They Offered Themselves Willingly —In Taiwan. Discussion based on the article in the October 15, 2014, *Watchtower,* pages 3-6. How did the publishers mentioned in the article prepare to move to a foreign land? What blessings have they enjoyed?

20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Developing a Magazine Route." Discussion. After discussing the article, have a brief demonstration of a publisher offering a Bible study to someone on his route. Then interview a publisher who has a magazine route. How many are on his route? How does he prepare for each visit? Invite him to relate any outstanding experiences.

Song 101 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Developing a Magazine Route

Why Important: Many people who enjoy reading our magazines do not wish to study the Bible with us. Perhaps they are happy with their religion, or they feel that they do not have time to study. However, as they regularly read our magazines, they may form a longing for God's Word. (1 Pet. 2:2) A particular article may strike a responsive chord, or their circumstances may change. Regular, brief visits will make them more comfortable with us and help us learn what their interests and concerns are. Eventually, a Bible study may be started.

How to Do It:

- Each month, schedule time to bring the individual the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Maybe you can visit at other times during the month to whet his appetite for an article from the magazines you left or to offer the publication being featured that month. Keep good records.—See the January 2014 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 3.
- Prepare for each visit. Rather than simply dropping the magazines off, engage the householder in conversation and try to build a rapport with him so that you can cultivate his interest.
- Be alert for opportunities to start a study. If someone on your route asks you what the Bible says on a certain topic, bring him a study publication that contains the answer, and discuss it together. Before you leave, raise a related question and consider it on the next visit. If you are regularly and systematically having even brief discussions using the Bible or one of our study publications, you are conducting a Bible study. Have you offered the householder the *Good News* brochure and demonstrated a short Bible study? Have you shown him the videos *Why Study the Bible?* and *What Happens at a Bible Study?* Even if the person has not been receptive to a study in the past, circumstances change. Would it be beneficial for you to try again?

Try This During the Month:

- Make a list of those who could be on a magazine route. Offer them the current issues of the magazines, and tell them that you will bring them the next issue.

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WEEK STARTING MARCH 23

Song 119 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 22 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 10-13 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Samuel 11:1-10 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Does the Bible Foretell About Our Day?—*nwt* p. 16 ¶1-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: Azariah (No. 21)—Theme: Strong in Faith From Youth to Manhood—*it*-1 p. 225 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 20
30 min: "Meetings for Field Service That Accomplish Their Purpose." Questions and answers.
Song 32 and Prayer

Meetings for Field Service That Accomplish Their Purpose

[1] On one occasion, Jesus met with 70 of his disciples before they went on a preaching campaign. (Luke 10:1-11) He gave encouragement by reminding them that they would not be alone and that they were being directed by "the Master of the harvest," Jehovah. He also gave them instructions that equipped them to do the work, and he organized them "by twos." Today, the meetings we have prior to going out in the ministry serve a similar purpose—to encourage, equip, and organize us.

[2] Currently, a meeting for field service lasts from 10 to 15 minutes, which includes organizing the groups, assigning territory, and saying a prayer. This is now being adjusted. Beginning in April, a meeting for field service will last from five to seven minutes. However, when it follows another congregation meeting, it should be even shorter, since those attending have already enjoyed a fine Scriptural discussion. Having brief meetings for field service will enable all to spend more time in the ministry. In addition, if pioneers or publishers have begun their preaching before the meeting for field service, only a brief interruption of their activity will be necessary.

[3] Meetings for field service should be arranged so that they will be most helpful to the publishers. In many congregations it is advantageous for field service groups to meet separately rather than to combine at one location. This may make it easier for publishers to travel to the meeting for field service and perhaps to the territory. Publishers can be quickly organized, and it may be easier for group overseers to give close attention to those in their care. The body of elders can consider local circumstances and determine what is best. Before ending the meeting with a brief prayer, all should know where and with whom they are going to work.

[4] **Not Less Important Than Other Congregation Meetings:** Because meetings for field service are held for the benefit of those who are going out in the ministry, they may not be attended by the entire congregation. However, this does not mean that they should be taken lightly or viewed as less important than other congregation meetings. Like all our meetings, meetings for field service are a provision from Jehovah that enables us to incite one another to love and fine works. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Therefore, the conductor should be well-prepared so that the discussion will honor Jehovah and benefit those in attendance. If it is practical to do so, publishers who are going out in the ministry should make an effort to attend.

1. Meetings for field service have what purpose?
2. How long should a meeting for field service be?
3. How may meetings for field service be arranged so that they are most helpful to the publishers?
4. Why should meetings for field service not be viewed as less important than other meetings?

[5] **Preparation by the Conductor:** In order for someone to be well-prepared to present a meeting part, he needs to receive the assignment in advance. This is no less true with regard to meetings for field service. Of course, when field service groups meet separately, group overseers or their assistants conduct the meeting for their group. However, when the congregation will have a combined meeting for field service, the service overseer will assign someone to conduct. Some service overseers give a schedule to all the conductors and post a copy of it on the information board. The service overseer should use good judgment when assigning conductors, keeping in mind that the quality of these meetings will also depend on the teaching and organizing ability of those conducting. If no elder, ministerial servant, or other qualified baptized brother is available to be assigned on some days, the service overseer should assign a capable baptized sister to conduct. —See the article "When a Sister Must Conduct."

Meetings for field service should not be taken lightly or viewed as less important than other congregation meetings

[6] When we receive an assignment for the Theocratic Ministry School or Service Meeting, we take it seriously and prepare well. Few of us would wait until we are traveling to the meeting to begin thinking about what we will say. An assignment to conduct a meeting for field service should be viewed the same way. Now that the meeting for field service will be shorter, good preparation is especially important so that the meeting will be meaningful and end on time. Good preparation also includes obtaining territory *in advance.*

5. (a) What is the service overseer's role in arranging meetings for field service? (b) How should a sister conduct a meeting for field service?

6. Why is it important for the assigned conductor to prepare well?

[7] **What to Discuss:** Since circumstances vary from territory to territory, the faithful slave has not provided an outline for each meeting for field service. The box "During a Meeting for Field Service, You Might Consider" outlines some possibilities. Generally, the meeting will be handled as a discussion. On occasion, it may include a well-prepared demonstration or an appropriate video from jw.org. When preparing for a meeting for field service, the conductor should think about what will encourage and equip those going out in the ministry that day.

[8] On Saturdays, for example, most publishers offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Many who share in the ministry on Saturdays do not go out during the week, so they may have difficulty remembering the presentation they practiced during their Family Worship evening. Therefore, it may be beneficial for the conductor to review one of the sample presentations from the back of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Other options include discussing how to incorporate a local news item, event, or holiday into a magazine presentation or how to lay the groundwork for the next visit if the magazines are accepted. If some at the meeting for field service have already been using the particular magazines being offered, the conductor could ask them to share some brief suggestions or relate encouraging experiences. On Sundays, the conductor might choose to do something similar with regard to the offer for the month. Study publications, such as the *Good News* and *Listen to God* brochures and the *Bible Teach* book may be offered any day, so the conductor could briefly consider how one of these publications may be offered.

7. What are some things that the conductor could discuss?

8. What might be most beneficial to discuss during meetings for field service on Saturdays and Sundays?

[9] If the congregation is engaged in a special campaign on the weekend, the conductor might consider how to offer the current magazines along with the invitation or the tract, or he could discuss what to do if interest is shown. Another option would be to share experiences that highlight the value of such campaigns.

[10] **Preparation by Publishers:** Publishers also have a part in making a meeting for field service successful. By preparing in advance for service, perhaps during their family worship, they will have something to share with other publishers. Good preparation also includes obtaining magazines and literature supplies *before* arriving at the meeting for field service so that all can leave for the territory without unnecessary delay.

When preparing for a meeting for field service, the conductor should think about what will encourage and equip those going out in the ministry that day

[11] It is also important to plan to arrive at the meeting for field service a few minutes before it begins. Of course, we endeavor to be on time for all congregation meetings. However, it can be especially disruptive when we arrive late for a meeting for field service. How so? The brother taking the lead considers a number of factors before organizing the group. If few publishers are present, he may choose to send everyone to a territory that has been partially worked. If some walked to the meeting for field service and the territory is a distance away, he may pair these publishers with those who drove vehicles. If the territory is in a high-crime area, he may assign brothers to work with or near groups of sisters. Infirm publishers might be assigned to work a street that is level or that has homes with fewer stairs. Newer publishers might be assigned to work with more experienced ones. But, if publishers arrive late, the arrangements will often have to be revised or redone in order to accommodate the latecomers. Of course, we may on occasion have a legitimate reason for being late. However, if we are habitually late, we might ask ourselves if it is because we lack appreciation for meetings for field service or because we fail to organize our affairs in advance.

[12] Publishers who meet for service can choose to make their own arrangements before the meeting begins, or they can have a partner assigned to them. If you generally make your own arrangements, could you "widen out" by working with a variety of publishers rather than with the same close friends each time? (2 Cor. 6:11-13, ftn.) Could you occasionally arrange to work with a newer publisher to help him make advancement in his teaching ability? (1 Cor. 10:24; 1 Tim. 4: 13, 15) Listen carefully to any instructions that you are given, including direction regarding where you are to begin preaching. When the meeting concludes, avoid changing the arrangements and depart for the territory promptly.

[13] After preaching, the 70 whom Jesus organized for the ministry "returned with joy." (Luke 10:17) No doubt, Jesus' meeting with them before they began preaching helped them to be successful. Today, meetings for field service can have a similar benefit. If all involved are conscientious and do their part, meetings for field service will encourage, equip, and organize us to accomplish our commission to give "a witness to all the nations."—Matt. 24:14.

9. What could be discussed on the weekend when engaged in a special campaign?

10, 11. Why is preparation by the publishers important for the success of a meeting for field service?

12. If you generally make your own service arrangements, what might you consider?

13. If all involved are conscientious and do their part, how will meetings for field service benefit us?

When a Sister Must Conduct

A sister should wear a head covering and would normally be seated when conducting a meeting for field service. What she chooses to discuss would be similar to what a brother would consider. While she should avoid giving the appearance of instructing those in attendance, she may initiate a group discussion. If she invites another baptized sister to say the prayer, that sister should also wear a head covering. If a baptized brother joins the meeting after it has started, the sister would normally invite him to finish the meeting. The service overseer should try to anticipate unusual situations and give appropriate instructions so as to minimize awkwardness. For example, a very young, perhaps preteen, baptized brother might attend when a sister is assigned to conduct, but the elders feel that he is not yet qualified to conduct the meeting. In such a case, the service overseer can inform those involved that the assigned sister should conduct the meeting, but the brother should say the prayer if the elders feel that he is qualified. Or perhaps there is an adult brother who is restricted from conducting the meeting or offering congregation prayer for reasons known by the elders. Without revealing confidential information, the elders should let the assigned sisters know that they should conduct and pray even if he is in attendance. The elders might also let the brother know which days sisters are scheduled to conduct the meetings for field service.

During a Meeting for Field Service, You Might Consider:

- A sample presentation from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*
- A video about the ministry from jw.org.
- A certain aspect of a good presentation, such as the introduction, laying the groundwork to return, or mentioning the donation arrangement when literature is accepted.
- An encouraging or instructive scripture that relates to the ministry.
- A local or published field service experience.
- Information from an *Our Kingdom Ministry* article.
- Information from a recent Service Meeting part.
- Ministry-related information from *The Watchtower.*
- Ministry-related information from such publications as the *Ministry School* and *"Come Be My Follower"* books.
- A feature of jw.org that can be used in the ministry.
- A feature of the revised *New World Translation* that can be used in the ministry.
- How to start a conversation with someone who may be encountered in your territory, such as an atheist, an evolutionist, a Hindu, or a Buddhist.
- How to respond to a specific potential conversation stopper.
- How to help your field service partner be more effective at the door.
- How to respond when meeting someone who speaks another language.
- How to engage in a specific avenue of the ministry that some will be sharing in, such as the search work, telephone witnessing, public witnessing, return visits, or Bible studies.
- A reminder about safety, flexibility, good manners, having a positive attitude, or something similar.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 30

Song 57 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 22 ¶9-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 14-15 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Samuel 14:36-45 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Balaam—Theme: Greed Can Blind Us to a Wrong Course—*it*-1 pp. 244-245 (5 min.)
No. 3: The Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy About the Last Days—*nwt* p. 17 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 37
15 min: Additional Videos on Our Web Site for the Ministry. Discussion. Begin by playing the video *What Happens at a Bible Study?* Then discuss ways to use this video in the ministry. Afterward, do the same for the video *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?* Include a demonstration.
15 min: "Use 'An Introduction to God's Word' —To Start a Conversation." Questions and answers. Invite audience to suggest other ways to use "An Introduction to God's Word" in the ministry. Include a demonstration.
Song 114 and Prayer

Use "An Introduction to God's Word"—To Start a Conversation

1 The revised edition of the *New World Translation* has a section in the beginning called "An Introduction to God's Word." How can we use this new tool when preparing presentations for the ministry? Since this section groups scriptures under various Bible topics, similar to the way the *Reasoning* book does, it can be very useful in starting conversations.

2 You might use question 8 and say: "We are making brief visits in the neighborhood because many people wonder, 'Is God to blame for human suffering?' [In some territories, it is more effective to *show* the question to the householder.] What is your opinion? [Allow for response.] The Bible gives a satisfying answer to that question." Read and discuss one or more of the cited verses directly from the Bible. If the householder expresses interest, you could show him the 20 questions listed in the introduction and ask him to choose one to discuss on the next visit. Or you could offer one of our study publications that has more information on the subject you just considered.

3 Questions 4 and 13 through 17 may be especially helpful when preaching in territories where people belong to a non-Christian religion. For example, you might use the information from question 17 and say: "We are making brief visits as a public service to families. Would you agree that families face numerous challenges today? [Allow for response.] Many couples have found these wise words helpful: 'The wife should have deep respect for her husband.'" [You do not need to mention that this is from Ephesians 5:33. If you are speaking to a woman, you might instead recite the words of Ephesians 5:28.] Do you think that applying that advice would be beneficial in a marriage?"

4 At the end of your conversation, make arrangements to continue the discussion on another occasion. Perhaps you can plan to talk about one of the other scriptures from the question you used. At an appropriate time, let the householder know that the wise sayings you have been sharing with him are from the Bible. Based on your previous discussions and the person's view of the Bible, offer a publication that you think would appeal to him.—See the insert in the December 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

1. What new tool have we received for the ministry?
2. How may we use "An Introduction to God's Word" in the ministry?
3. How may we use "An Introduction to God's Word" to start conversations in territories where people belong to a non-Christian religion?
4. What might you do at the end of your conversation with someone who belongs to a non-Christian religion?

WEEK STARTING APRIL 6

Song 124 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 22 ¶18-22, box p. 228 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 16-18 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Samuel 18:17-24 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Is God to Blame for Human Suffering? —*nwt* p. 18 ¶1-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: Barak—Theme: Be Valiant and Do Not Seek Glory From Men—*it*-1 p. 255 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 85
10 min: Offer the Magazines During April. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the sample presentations provided. Then analyze each sample presentation from beginning to end.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Developing a Magazine Route." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.
10 min: Local needs.
Song 106 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **May and June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The Memorial will be held on Friday, April 3, 2015. If your congregation normally has a meeting on Friday, it should be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If the Service Meeting must be canceled, the coordinator of the body of elders may make adjustments to the schedule so that parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation are considered during the month.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning on Friday, May 8, 2015. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on this day. Also, there will be no arrangement for tours on the day of the Memorial, Friday, April 3, 2015.

■ Since May has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM April 1

"We're giving this tract to everyone in the area today. [Hand the householder the tract *How Do You View the Bible?* and ask him the questions on the front. Show him the Bible's answer from 2 Timothy 3:16, and encourage him to read the tract when he has time.] Many people are not aware that the Bible gives satisfying answers to questions such as these. [Show the opening questions in the first article of the *Watchtower.*] This magazine explains how you can find the answers in your own Bible."

Awake!® April

"We are making brief visits today because many people are concerned about the changes they see in families. In years past, parents were in charge, but now, in some households it seems that the children are. Do you think parents today discipline their children as they should? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, discipline is important. [Read Proverbs 29:17.] This magazine discusses the Bible's balanced instructions on disciplining children."

Field Service Highlights

We are happy to report three all-time peaks in regular pioneers for the month of September 2014. The United States reported 167,895, Puerto Rico reported 3,413, and the Turks and Caicos Islands reported 58. Truly, these regular pioneers are proving themselves "ready for every good work."—Titus 3:1.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

APRIL 2015

MONTHLY THEME: Walk as wise persons by "making the best use of your time."—Eph. 5:15, 16.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 13

Song 18 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 23 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 19-22 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Samuel 21:10–22:4 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Barnabas—Theme: Be Warmhearted and Generous in Your Ministry—*it*-1 p. 257 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Do Humans Suffer?—*nwt* p. 19 ¶1-4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 115
10 min: Walk as Wise Persons by "Making the Best Use of Your Time." Talk highlighting the monthly theme.—Eph. 5:15, 16; see *The Watchtower,* May 15, 2012, pp. 19-20, pars. 11-14.
20 min: "Make the Best Use of Your Time in the Ministry." Discussion.
Song 98 and Prayer

Make the Best Use of Your Time in the Ministry

Jehovah's Witnesses spent 1,945,487,604 hours in the ministry during the 2014 service year—clear evidence that we are resolved to stay busy in Jehovah's service! (Ps. 110:3; 1 Cor. 15:58) Since "the time left is reduced," is it possible to use our precious hours in the ministry to contact even more people? —1 Cor. 7:29.

Making the best use of our time in the ministry requires flexibility. For instance, if you regularly spend an hour or more in a particular aspect of the ministry without speaking to anyone, could you make adjustments in order to find and talk to more people? Circumstances vary from place to place. However, the following suggestions may help you to make better use of your time so that you can avoid "striking the air."—1 Cor. 9:26.

- **House-to-House Witnessing:** For many decades, publishers have customarily started their day in the ministry by preaching from house to house. However, since many individuals work during the day, why not try preaching from house to house in the late afternoon or early evening, when more people are at home and relaxed? During the day, street or business witnessing may yield better results.
- **Public Witnessing:** Tables and mobile displays should be set up in high-traffic areas within the congregation's territory boundary. (See the July 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 5.) If pedestrian traffic diminishes in an area designated for public witnessing, the Congregation Service Committee may decide that the mobile display or table should be relocated to an area with higher pedestrian traffic.
- **Return Visits and Bible Studies:** Is it possible to schedule your return visits and Bible studies during times when other features of the ministry are less productive? For instance, if the house-to-house ministry is productive on Saturday mornings, could you have your Bible study in the afternoon or in the evening? When making return visits, could publishers split into smaller car groups so as to accomplish more in the ministry?

While it is true that we can count our time whenever we engage in the ministry, our joy increases when we are productive. If you find that participating in one feature of the ministry is not effective at a specific time, try another feature. Pray to Jehovah, "the Master of the harvest," for his direction so that you can make the best use of your time in the ministry!—Matt. 9:38.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 20

Song 3 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 23 ¶10-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 23-25 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Samuel 23:13-23 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Does the Bible Promise for the Future?—*nwt* p. 20 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Baruch (No. 1)—Theme: Serve Jehovah Unselfishly—*it*-1 p. 259 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 97
15 min: "How to Witness Using a Literature Display." Discussion. Demonstrate the following: Two publishers are at a cart or a table. One publisher simply smiles at a passerby. The other publisher then smiles at the next passerby, asks a question as the person comes closer, and starts an enthusiastic conversation. How might we apply this approach even when we are not using a literature display?
15 min: Regular Occasions for Rejoicing. Discussion based on the September 15, 2012, *Watchtower,* pages 31-32, paragraphs 15-19. Stimulate enthusiasm for the upcoming regional convention. Build anticipation for what will be presented by encouraging all to preview the convention, using the program posted on jw.org.
Song 75 and Prayer

How to Witness Using a Literature Display

Witnessing with a mobile cart or a table display is proving to be very effective in drawing honesthearted ones to the truth. (John 6:44) Therefore, elders have been encouraged to organize public witnessing in areas of the congregation's territory where there is high pedestrian traffic. Since mobile displays are not stationary, generally there is no need to ask permission from the authorities. Who are qualified to participate? Publishers who demonstrate good judgment, present themselves in a dignified way, and have good conversation skills. The following are some dos and don'ts that will help publishers have more success.

Do:

- Be friendly, welcoming, and helpful to passersby. Some publishers give a warm, genuine smile and say a friendly greeting. If someone looks at the display as he passes by, you might say, "You can take something if you like."
- Stand at an appropriate distance from the display. In some places publishers experience success when they stand within a few feet of the display. Others find that this method makes passersby hesitant to stop, so they stand a little farther away and wait until someone stops at the display. Once a person approaches the display, try to engage him in conversation, perhaps by asking, "Have you ever thought about that question before?"
- Use the Bible as often as possible.
- Explain the Bible study arrangement to anyone who takes one of our study publications, such as the *Bible Teach* book. Offer to play the video *Why Study the Bible?* on an electronic device.
- Obtain contact information from interested ones when possible. If the person does not live in your territory, fill out a *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form, and give it to the secretary as soon as possible.

Don't:

- Be aggressive, insistent, or pushy or stand next to the display like a sentinel.
- View this form of witnessing as simply a way to distribute literature. When we are in the ministry, our goal is to start Bible studies, so we should try to engage individuals in conversation.
- Block the display or become too engrossed in conversation with your partner. If you must use your cell phone for a personal call, it is usually best to step away from the display.
- Get involved in debates with opposers. If an opposer becomes abusive, it may be necessary to move to another location.

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WEEK STARTING APRIL 27

Song 1 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 23 ¶19-23, box on p. 239 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Samuel 26-31 (8 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 66

7 min: "A Direct Invitation." Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 3, have a brief demonstration showing how to present the invitation.

10 min: "Convention Reminders." Discussion by secretary. Focus attention on the Bible principles that are highlighted and how they can be applied during the 2015 regional convention. Also discuss pertinent points from the letter to all congregations dated August 3, 2013, regarding safety precautions when attending spiritual programs.

13 min: "Unleash the Power of God's Word in Your Ministry." Discussion. Afterward, have a brief two-part demonstration. First, a publisher introduces the *Good News* brochure to a householder by reciting parts of 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, without opening the Bible. Then, the publisher gives the presentation again, but this time he reads the scripture directly from the Bible. Invite comments on why the second presentation can be more effective.

Song 124 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 27, 2015. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. What kind of love is loyal love, and in what areas of life is it especially needed? (Ruth 1:16, 17) [Mar. 2, *w12* 7/1 p. 26 par. 6]
2. How did Ruth acquire the reputation of being "an excellent woman"? (Ruth 3:11) [Mar. 2, *w12* 10/1 p. 23 par. 1]
3. When we are confronted with problems, in what way can we benefit from Hannah's example? (1 Sam. 1:16-18) [Mar. 9, *w07* 3/15 p. 16 pars. 4-5]
4. When Samuel was a boy "growing up before Jehovah," what was it that protected him from the bad example of Eli's sons? (1 Sam. 2:21) [Mar. 9, *w10* 10/1 p. 16 pars. 2-3]
5. In what way can we benefit from Saul's refusal to act rashly when "worthless men" rejected his kingship? (1 Sam. 10:22, 27) [Mar. 23, *w05* 3/15 p. 23 par. 1]
6. What vital lesson do we learn from Saul's mistaken view that a sacrifice could be substituted for obedience to Jehovah? (1 Sam. 15:22, 23) [Mar. 30, *w07* 6/15 p. 26 pars. 3-4]
7. Why is it reassuring to know that Jehovah "sees into the heart" of a person? (1 Sam. 16:7) [Apr. 6, *w10* 3/1 p. 23 par. 7]
8. According to Proverbs 1:4, what do we possess that Jehovah expects us to use when facing difficult situations? (1 Sam. 21:12, 13) [Apr. 13, *w05* 3/15 p. 24 par. 4]
9. Why can it be said that Abigail was not rebelling against her husband's headship when she gave provisions to David and his men? (1 Sam. 25:10, 11, 18, 19) [Apr. 20, *w09* 7/1 p. 20 par. 3]
10. Abigail apologized for something she did not do. How can we benefit from her example? (1 Sam. 25:24) [Apr. 20, *w02* 11/1 p. 5 pars. 1, 4]

A Direct Invitation

[1] If you were planning a special meal for family or friends, one that required much effort and expense to prepare, you would likely be enthusiastic when extending invitations. Similarly, much work has gone into preparing the spiritual feast that will be presented at our upcoming convention. Beginning three weeks before the start of our convention, Jehovah is allowing us the privilege of inviting others to attend. What will help us to extend the invitations with enthusiasm?

[2] We will be moved to have a full share in the campaign if we reflect appreciatively on how much we personally benefit from the refreshing instruction that Jehovah provides at our conventions. (Isa. 65:13, 14) We should remember, too, that our annual campaign yields results. (See the box "It Gets Results.") Some people we invite will attend the convention with us, while others will not. Regardless of how many respond, however, our diligent efforts during the campaign bring praise to Jehovah and reflect his generosity.—Ps. 145:3, 7; Rev. 22:17.

1. When will the invitation campaign for the convention begin?
2. What will move us to have a full share in the campaign?

What Will You Say? After giving a customary greeting, you might say: "We are involved in a global campaign to distribute this invitation to a very important event. The date, time, and address are printed on the invitation."

[3] Each body of elders should determine how they can give the invitations wide distribution, including whether to leave them at not-at-homes or offer them in public witnessing within their territory. On weekends the magazines should be offered along with the invitation when appropriate. After the campaign concludes, how happy we will be to know that we participated enthusiastically and that as many people as possible joined us at the spiritual banquet that Jehovah provided!

3. How will the invitations be distributed?

It Gets Results

- Several years ago when one sister was participating in the invitation campaign, she wondered if all the effort was worthwhile. She thought, 'Will people actually respond and attend the convention with us?' On Saturday morning of the convention, she noticed a Sikh gentleman sitting nearby, so she decided to introduce herself. It became apparent that he was at the convention because he had received one of our invitations. He had a number of questions that the sister was able to answer. He commented on how much he was enjoying the program and how impressed he was by the appearance and conduct of the delegates. Later on the same day, the sister struck up a conversation with a couple sitting near her. They too had received an invitation and had come to the convention by bus. They were enjoying the convention and planned to attend on Sunday. The sister then realized how important our annual campaign is.
- At a recent convention, a husband and wife who are regular pioneers introduced themselves to an older couple. The couple explained that they were there for the first time. "Who invited you?" the pioneers asked. "When we came home one day, we found the invitation under our door," was the reply. They read the invitation and even filled out the coupon on the back. Other delegates at the convention shared their lunch with the couple. They enjoyed the program so much that they made plans to return the next day. Arrangements were made to visit them and follow up on the interest.

Convention Reminders

- **Program Times:** The doors to the convention site will open at 8:00 a.m. The introductory music will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. At that time, all of us should go to our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at about 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at about 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- **'Praise Jehovah With Song':** God's people in ancient times praised Jehovah in song, and music continues to be an important part of true worship today. (Ps. 28:7) Each session of our regional convention begins with a musical interlude. This is not merely background music but is prepared so that we may learn about and worship Jehovah. Thus, when the chairman announces that the musical interlude is about to begin, that is the time to be seated and listen with appreciation to the music, rather than to converse. Our doing so shows that we value the efforts of the members of the Watchtower orchestra. Twice a year these brothers and sisters travel at their own expense to Patterson, New York, in order to produce beautiful music for our enjoyment. After listening intently to the musical interlude, everyone should join in praising Jehovah by singing our Kingdom songs.
- **Parking:** At all convention sites where we control the parking, the spaces will be available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking is usually limited, so carpooling should be done to the extent possible. Only those with a license plate or placard for the disabled will be allowed to park in the area reserved for such ones.
- **Seat Saving:** When the doors to the facility are opened each morning, please do not rush to the seating area, as if competing with fellow attenders. Please be considerate of others, even sacrificing our preferences for the sake of our brothers. A self-sacrificing spirit identifies us as true Christians and moves onlookers to praise God. (John 13:34, 35; 1 Cor. 13:5; 1 Pet. 2:12) Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle, living with you in the same home, or currently studying the Bible with you. Please do not store things on seats that you are not saving. Your cooperation in this regard will allow others to see that those seats are available. Special seating has been provided for the elderly and the infirm. Since this seating is limited, only one or two persons who are directly assisting the elderly or infirm individual may sit with him or her.
- **Modest Dress:** Our dress during the convention should be appropriate and modest, not reflecting the extreme styles common in the world. (1 Tim. 2:9) Even when checking in and out of the hotel and during times of leisure before and after the sessions, we want to avoid an overly casual or slovenly appearance. Thus we will be proud to wear our convention badge and not be embarrassed to give a witness when we have an opportunity. Our appearance and fine conduct while attending the upcoming conventions will not only attract honesthearted people to the Bible's life-saving message but it will also bring joy to Jehovah.—Zeph. 3:17.

- **Good Manners With Electronic Devices:** We show good manners during the program by adjusting our cell phones or other electronic devices to a setting that will not disturb others. If using a camera, video recorder, electronic tablet, or other such device, we want to be considerate by not disturbing others or blocking their view. We also display good manners by not texting or e-mailing needlessly during the program.
- **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers and glass containers are not permitted in the convention facility.
- **Donations:** We can show our appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at the convention. Any checks should be made payable to "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations can also be made by means of a debit or credit card.
- **Medication:** If you require prescription medication, please be sure to bring an adequate supply with you, since none will be available at the convention. Diabetic syringes and needles must be disposed of properly as hazardous waste and not in trash receptacles at the convention facility or hotel.
- **Safety Precautions:** Please be especially mindful of preventing injuries that can be caused by slipping and tripping. Each year injuries occur that are related to footwear, especially high-heeled shoes. It is best to choose modest, well-fitting shoes that will allow one to walk safely on ramps, stairs, gratings, and so forth.
- **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To hear the program, you will need to bring a small battery-operated FM receiver with earphones.
- **Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs:** Baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought to the convention site. However, child-safety seats are acceptable if they can be secured in a seat next to the parents.
- **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas with mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be loving on our part to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions in people with respiratory or related problems.—1 Cor. 10:24.
- ***Please Follow Up* (S-43) Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* form should be used to provide information regarding any interest found through informal witnessing during the convention. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room or given to your congregation secretary on your return home.
- **Restaurants:** Honor Jehovah's name by your fine conduct at restaurants. Dress in a way that befits a Christian minister. Leave a tip if this is customary.
- **Hotels:**

(1) Please do not reserve more rooms than you will actually use, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed.

(2) Do not cancel your reservation except for an emergency situation, and notify the hotel as soon as it occurs so that others needing accommodations can use the room. (Matt. 5:37)

If you do have to cancel, be sure to get a cancellation number. If you cancel a room less than 48 hours ahead of time, your deposit will not be refunded.

(3) Please note that if you use a debit or credit card when registering at a hotel, it is standard practice for the hotel to place a hold on funds in your account to cover your total room cost, plus any possible damages or incidentals during your stay. You will not be able to use any of those funds until your account is settled within a few days after you depart.

(4) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it.

(5) If it is the custom in your country, tip hotel workers when they carry your luggage and leave a tip for the housekeeper.

(6) Cook only in rooms where cooking is permitted.

(7) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to consume while they are at the hotel.

(8) At all times, display the fruitage of the spirit when dealing with the hotel staff. They are caring for a large number of guests and appreciate our kindness, patience, and reasonableness.

(9) Parents should supervise their children at all times around the hotel, including the elevators, swimming pool, lobby area, exercise room, and so forth.

(10) The room rate shown on the *Recommended Lodging List* is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are overcharged, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible.

(11) If a problem arises with your hotel room, inform the Rooming Department while at the convention so that they can assist you.

■ **Volunteer Service:** Any who wish to volunteer should report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent, guardian, or other adult approved by a parent or guardian.

Unleash the Power of God's Word in Your Ministry

When a person allows us time to share the good news with him, we make good use of the opportunity and unleash the power of God's Word by reading scriptures directly from the Bible. This was emphasized at last year's special assembly day. The circuit overseer gave a talk entitled "Unleash the Power of God's Word in Your Ministry." Do you remember the main points?

- Why is Jehovah's word more powerful than ours?—2 Tim. 3:16, 17.
- How does the Bible stir emotions, shape thinking, refine motives, and drive behavior?—See *The Watchtower,* June 15, 2012, p. 27, par. 7.
- When we read a scripture to someone in the ministry, how can we draw attention to God's Word in a way that engenders respect for it?—See the *Ministry School* book, p. 148, pars. 3-4 and the March 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 6, par. 8.
- Why is it important that we explain and reason on the scriptures that we read, and how can we do so?—Acts 17:2, 3; see the *Ministry School* book, p. 154, par. 4 to p. 156, par. 5.

WEEK STARTING MAY 4

Song 68 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 24 ¶1-10 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 1-3 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Samuel 2:24-32 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Bath-sheba—Theme: Repentant Wrongdoers Can Receive God's Favor—*it*-1 pp. 263-264 (5 min.)
No. 3: Bible Promises That Will Soon Be Fulfilled—*nwt* p. 20 ¶4–p. 21 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 43
10 min: Local needs. May include demonstration of magazine presentations.
5 min: The Literature Offer for May and June. Discussion. Consider features of the literature that will be offered. Include a demonstration.
15 min: Preaching in Seldom-Worked Territory—A Good Use of Time! Discussion by elder, preferably one who has preached in seldom-worked territory. Play the video *Witnessing in Isolated Territory—Australia.* (Go to jw.org, and look under ABOUT US > ACTIVITIES.) Discuss the positive effects that preaching in seldom-worked territory had on the family in the video. Interview any in the congregation who have served in seldom-worked territory. What positive effects did it have on their family, their ministry, and their spirituality? What kind of planning was involved? If any wish to preach in seldom-worked territory, the elders will be happy to provide assistance. Emphasize that preaching in seldom-worked territory is a fine way to make good use of our time.
New song "Teach Them to Stand Firm" and Prayer
Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **May and June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **July:** *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ The meeting schedule for the week preceding your regional convention should be adjusted in order to review counsel and reminders from the insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the letter to all congregations dated August 3, 2013, regarding safety precautions when attending spiritual programs. A month or two following your convention, a local needs part may be used to review specific convention points that the publishers have found to be helpful in the ministry.

■ Since May has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 1

"If you could end one problem in the world, what would it be? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, God will soon bring an end to that problem and many more. [Choose a scripture to read that applies, such as Daniel 2:44; Proverbs 2:21, 22; Matthew 7:21-23; or 2 Peter 3:7.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses when and how God is going to make such welcome changes to the earth."

Awake!® May

"Do you think we will ever live in a world where people will have comfortable housing and not suffer from poverty? [Allow for response.] Please note the promise God has made to mankind concerning this. [Read Isaiah 65:21, 22.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses how God will fulfill his promises to mankind and how we can be a part of it."

Field Service Highlights

Some exciting features of the United States report for October 2014 include the following: A total of 785,888 Bible studies were conducted, an increase of 5,894 compared with the same month last year. It was also thrilling to see 2,911 baptized, an average of about 728 each week. If we make ourselves available, Jehovah can use us to help make disciples before the end comes.—Matt. 28: 19, 20.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 2015

MONTHLY THEME: Help all sorts of people come to an accurate knowledge of truth.—1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

WEEK STARTING MAY 11

Song 84 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 24 ¶11-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 4-8 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Samuel 6:14-23 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Happens When Someone Dies? —*nwt* p. 22 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Belshazzar—Theme: Learn Humility and Avoid Disaster—*it*-1 pp. 282-284 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 92
10 min: Help All Sorts of People Come to an Accurate Knowledge of Truth. Talk based on the monthly theme. (See *The Watchtower,* November 15, 2013, pp. 11-12, par. 8.) Read and discuss 1 Timothy 2:3, 4 and 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Preview some of the Service Meeting parts for the month, and highlight how they relate to the monthly theme.
20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing to Someone Who Speaks Another Language." Discussion. Have a brief, realistic demonstration of a publisher using the *Nations* booklet to witness to someone he meets in the house-to-house ministry.
Song 105 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing to Someone Who Speaks Another Language

Why Important: Jehovah is interested in the spiritual welfare of people "in every nation." (Acts 10:34, 35) Therefore, Jesus indicated that the good news would be preached "in all the inhabited earth" and "to all the nations." (Matt. 24:14) Zechariah prophesied that people "out of all the languages of the nations" would respond. (Zech. 8:23) According to the apostle John's vision, those who survive the great tribulation will include individuals "out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues [languages, ftn.]." (Rev. 7:9, 13, 14) In view of the foregoing, when we encounter someone in our territory who speaks another language, we should try to give him a witness.

How to Do It:

- Be prepared. Carry in your witnessing case *Good News for People of All Nations*. Become familiar with the instructions entitled "How to Help Those Who Speak Another Language," found at the beginning of the booklet. Anticipate the languages you may encounter, and download a video or a publication in those languages from jw.org to your mobile device. Consider using the *JW Language* app to learn a few phrases. If congregations of different languages preach in the same neighborhood, carry literature only in the language of your congregation when going from house to house. However, when engaging in public witnessing in multilingual areas, have literature in the languages of those you may meet.
- When you encounter someone who does not speak your language, do your best to share "the magnificent things of God" with him in his own language. (Acts 2:11) Direct him to jw.org for more information in his language. If he shows interest, promptly fill out a *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form, and give it to the secretary. Continue calling on the interested person until he is contacted by publishers who speak his language.

Try This During the Month:

- During your next Family Worship evening, have a practice session where you give a witness to someone who does not speak your language.

WEEK STARTING MAY 18

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 24 ¶18-21, box on p. 249 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 9-12 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Samuel 10:13–11:4 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Benaiah (No. 1)—Theme: Be Faithful and Fearless—*it*-1 pp. 284-285 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Hope Can We Have for the Dead? —*nwt* p. 23 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 73
10 min: How Paul Helped Greeks to Come to an Accurate Knowledge of Truth. Discussion. Have Acts 17:22-31 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.
20 min: *Jehovah Will Help You Be Bold.* Discussion. Play the video *Jehovah Will Help You Be Bold.* (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > CHILDREN.) Invite comments from the audience on the lessons taught by the video. Ask school-age children to comment on how this video helped them to have the courage to witness to their schoolmates and teachers. Have a reenactment of an outstanding experience that one of the children had when witnessing at school.
Song 60 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING MAY 25

Song 56 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 25 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 13-15 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Samuel 13:34–14:7 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Does the Bible Say About Work? —*nwt* p. 24 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Bezalel (No. 1)—Theme: Jehovah's Spirit Equips His Servants for Every Good Work —*it*-1 p. 307 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 121
10 min: Interview a Field Service Group Overseer. What does caring for your assignment involve? How do you endeavor to shepherd those in your group and help them in the ministry? Why is it important for publishers to inform you if their address or contact information changes? Why may the elders arrange for field service groups to meet separately for service rather than to combine at one location?
20 min: "Help the Blind Learn About Jehovah." Questions and answers. Include a demonstration.
Song 96 and Prayer

Help the Blind Learn About Jehovah

1 Jesus' death was just days away. As he was departing the city of Jericho, two blind beggars cried out: "Lord, have mercy on us!" Although the trials that awaited Jesus weighed heavily on his mind, Jesus stopped, called the men to him, and healed them. (Matt. 20:29-34) How can we imitate Jesus' compassion for the blind?

2 **Be Helpful:** If you encounter a blind person, perhaps in public, introduce yourself and offer to provide assistance. Since such ones are often taken advantage of, the person may be suspicious at first. However, your genuine friendliness and sincere interest may put him at ease. Keep in mind, too, that there are different degrees of blindness, and this may determine how much help needs to be rendered. After you have rendered assistance, perhaps you can mention that you are involved in a Bible education work. Offer to read him a scripture, such as Psalm 146:8 or Isaiah 35:5, 6. If he is able to read Braille, ask if he would like to have a Braille publication that will help him learn more about the Bible. You could also help him obtain audio files from jw.org. If his computer has a screen reader program that audibly reads text from the screen, he

1. How did Jesus demonstrate compassion for the blind?
2. How may we be able to give a witness to a blind person we meet in public?

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may even appreciate the printed articles on jw.org along with the publications that can be downloaded in RTF (Rich Text Format).—See the box "When Helping a Blind Person . . ."

[3] **Search Out the Blind:** We seldom meet blind people in the house-to-house ministry because many of them do not feel comfortable talking to strangers who come to their door. Therefore, it takes real effort to "search out" such ones in order to give them a witness. (Matt. 10:11) Do you have a workmate or a schoolmate who is blind? Take the initiative to speak to him. If your territory has a school for the blind, offer some of our Braille publications for the school library. Do you know someone who has a blind family member? Does your territory have organizations that provide helpful services for the blind or have assisted living facilities with blind occupants? Explain to the family member, the receptionist, or the director that Jehovah's Witnesses are very interested in helping the blind, and offer to bring Braille literature or audio recordings. Show him the Bible's promise that God will soon eradicate blindness permanently. You may also wish to show the video from jw.org entitled *"Without It, I Would Feel Lost,"* which relates the experience of a blind man who has benefited from having the Bible in Braille. By explaining the purpose of your visit, this may open up the way for you to make contact with blind individuals.

[4] A blind sister named Janet visited a facility that has residents who are blind. She started a conversation with a young woman. Janet told her, "Jesus healed blind people to show what he will do for all who are blind." They considered Revelation 21:3, 4 together, and Janet explained how this promise would be accomplished by God's Kingdom. The woman got quiet and then said: "I've never heard this from a blind person's point of view. Most people who can see believe that people are blind because of something they or their ancestors did." Janet e-mailed the woman a link to the *Bible Teach* book, and now they are studying the Bible together twice a week.

[5] Of course, we cannot heal people of their blindness as Jesus did, but we can help all those whose minds have been blinded by the god of this system of things, including the physically blind, to understand the truth of God's Word. (2 Cor. 4:4) Jesus healed the two men near Jericho because he was "moved with pity" for them. (Matt. 20:34) If we demonstrate similar interest in the blind, we can enjoy the privilege of helping some to learn about Jehovah, the one who will end blindness forever.

3. How can we search out the blind in our territory?

4. What lessons does Janet's experience teach?

5. Although we cannot heal the blind as Jesus could, our demonstrating interest in the blind will bring what blessings?

When Helping a Blind Person . . .

- Speak directly to him, but do not raise your voice. The blind cannot see, but they can usually hear quite well.
- Bend your arm, and allow him to take your arm just above the elbow if you are guiding him. He will be able to follow as you walk a half step in front of him. When you see a curb, a pole, a step, or another obstacle, it is important that you alert him.
- Feel free to use words that refer to vision, such as "see" and "look." The blind also use them. They "see" with their other senses, even creating mental images of what is being described.
- Have your discussions in a quiet place. The blind often do not feel comfortable in places with loud background noise, as it is difficult for them to know what is happening around them.
- Tell him when you leave his presence. This will save him the embarrassment of speaking to someone who is no longer there.
- Fill out a *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form, and give it to the secretary if the blind person shows interest but does not live in your territory.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 1

Song 13 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 25 ¶9-16 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 16-18 (8 min.)

No. 1: 2 Samuel 17:14-20 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: Boaz, I—Theme: Be Morally Clean and Accept Scriptural Responsibility—*it*-1 pp. 347-348 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Can You Manage Your Assets?—*nwt* p. 25 ¶1-4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 36

10 min: Offer the Magazines During June. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations provided. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing to Someone Who Speaks Another Language." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.

Song 25 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **May and June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **July and August:** *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men under the age of 26 who are (1) citizens and have reached 18 years of age or (2) noncitizens who move to the United States must register within 30 days. From the time a man registers until he turns 26, he must notify Selective Service within ten days of any change of address. Elders should remind those to whom this applies or will soon apply of their duty to register.—Rom. 13:1.

■ As a reminder, each year the elders should review with the congregation pertinent points from the January 6, 2012, letter regarding disaster preparedness and response.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 1

"We're visiting our neighbors briefly to stimulate interest in the Bible. Many people feel that modern science has proved the Bible to be inaccurate. What's your opinion of the Bible? Do you think it can be trusted? [Allow for response.] Notice this interesting example of the Bible's scientific accuracy. [Read Job 26:7.] This magazine examines how science and the Bible harmonize and complement each other."

Awake!® June

"Since many of our neighbors are battling illness, we are visiting briefly to share this encouraging Bible verse. [Read Isaiah 33:24a.] If we never got sick, how do you think our lives would be different? [Allow for response.] Until this prophecy is fulfilled, there are five basic things that we can do to improve our health. This magazine explains."

Field Service Highlights

The last convention for the 2014 calendar year in the United States branch territory was held during November. The total peak attendance for all 191 conventions was 1,826,267, with 14,039 baptized! We rejoiced to see so many gathering together to "worship the Father with spirit and truth."—John 4:23, 24.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JUNE 2015

MONTHLY THEME: "Remember the days of old."—Deut. 32:7.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 8

Song 6 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 25 ¶17-21, box on p. 259 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Samuel 19-21 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Samuel 19:24-37 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: How Can You Find Happiness?—*nwt* p. 26 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Caiaphas—Theme: Bloodguilty Opposers of the Truth Will Never Prevail—*it*-1 pp. 385-386 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 90
10 min: "Remember the Days of Old." Talk based on the monthly theme. Read and discuss Deuteronomy 4:9 and 32:7 as well as Psalm 71:15-18. Explain how modern-day evangelizers can benefit from remembering people and events from our theocratic history. Suggest that publishers occasionally discuss articles in the *Watchtower* series "From Our Archives" during their Family Worship evening. Preview some of the Service Meeting parts for the month, and discuss how they relate to the theme.
20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Starting a Doorstep Bible Study Using the *Good News From God!* Brochure." Discussion by service overseer. Review pertinent figures from the congregation's field service report that indicate the potential for more Bible studies. Have an experienced publisher demonstrate how a doorstep Bible study can be started using the presentation provided in the box. Encourage all to start a doorstep Bible study.
Song 29 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Starting a Doorstep Bible Study Using the *Good News From God!* Brochure

Why Important: To make disciples, we must be teachers of God's Word. (Matt. 28:19, 20) All of us can effectively teach the truth by using the tools that have been given to us. The *Good News From God!* brochure is specially designed to help us teach the truth to others. In fact, we could use it to start a Bible study with a householder on the initial call right at his doorstep.

How to Do It:

- Review the presentation in the box. —See also the March 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*
- Put your personal copy of the brochure in your service bag. Be sure to have enough brochures to offer.
- Consider just one or two paragraphs, and stay ten minutes or less.

Try This During the Month:

- Pray for the desire to conduct a study. Also, beg Jehovah for his help in starting a Bible study and in becoming an effective teacher of the truth.—Phil. 2:13.
- During family worship or personal study, take time to embed the presentation in your heart. You can thus speak with conviction and start a doorstep Bible study while in the ministry.

When Going From House to House:

"I'm here because people are concerned about where this world is heading. Do you think conditions will ever improve? [Allow for response.] Many people are surprised to learn that the Bible contains good news that can give us hope. Here are some of the questions that the Bible answers." Hand the householder a brochure, and invite him to choose a question from the back cover that interests him the most. Then go to the lesson, and demonstrate the study. Make arrangements to return to consider the next question in that lesson.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 15

Song 77 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 26 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Samuel 22-24 (8 min.)

No. 1: 2 Samuel 22:21-32 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: Cain—Theme: How We React to Counsel Tells Much About Us—*it*-1 pp. 386-387 (5 min.)

No. 3: Love and Obedience Bring Happiness —*nwt* p. 26 ¶4-6 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 88

12 min: Who Is Your Favorite Bible Character? Interview and talk. Begin by interviewing two or three young children in the congregation. Who is their favorite Bible character? According to the Bible, what did he or she do? In what way would they like to imitate the Bible character? Afterward, continue with a talk explaining how children can benefit from the Bible-character cards found on jw.org. (Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > CHILDREN.) Each Bible-character card includes a profile and illustrations of the character, a map of where he lived, a time line showing when he lived, and three questions and answers about him. Each card is designed to be printed out and collected. Encourage parents with young children to make use of this tool to teach their children about "the days of old."—Deut. 32:7.

18 min: "Learning From More Experienced Publishers." Discussion. When considering paragraph two, invite the audience to relate how they benefited from working in the ministry with an experienced publisher.

Song 4 and Prayer

Learning From More Experienced Publishers

We truly treasure the experienced publishers in the congregation. Some have been faithfully serving Jehovah for many years. Others may have acquired good skills in the ministry more recently. These publishers have seen how Jesus has directed the Christian congregation in these last days by expanding the preaching and disciple-making work. (Matt. 28:19, 20) By sharing in this ministry, they have received "the power beyond what is normal" when facing personal challenges and trials. (2 Cor. 4:7) There is a lot to learn from these seasoned publishers. When given the opportunity, they find delight in teaching others what they have learned. (Ps. 71:18) Thus, we should make opportunities to learn from them. How can this be done?

In the Ministry. To be effective in the ministry, new or less experienced publishers need training. A great deal can be learned by observing how mature publishers carry out their ministry. (See the article in the February 15, 2015, *Watchtower,* "Maintain Your Zeal for the Ministry," the third paragraph under the subheading "Help Less Experienced Ones.") How have you benefited by working with such ones in the ministry?

Could you invite a well-qualified publisher to work with you in the ministry? If the publisher is infirm, perhaps you could periodically conduct one of your Bible studies at his home. After the study, ask the publisher for his observations and advice.

Spend Personal Time With Them: Get to know experienced publishers by spending time with them. Invite one of them to your family worship and interview him. If the publisher is infirm, could arrangements be made to enjoy family worship at his home? Find out how he came into the truth. What blessings has he enjoyed? What growth has he seen locally? What joy has he found in serving Jehovah?

Be understanding and balanced in your expectations. Like all of us, long-standing publishers have differing gifts in the ministry. (Rom. 12:6-8) Some are advanced in age, and this may limit the amount of time that they can spend with us. Nevertheless, we can learn much from them because of their experience in serving Jehovah faithfully.

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WEEK STARTING JUNE 22

Song 67 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 26 ¶10-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 1-2 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Kings 1:15-27 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Genuine Christians Are Content and Happy—*nwt* p. 27 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Caleb (No. 2)—Theme: Jehovah Makes Powerful Those Who Follow Him Fully—*it*-1 pp. 388-389 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 75
15 min: What Did We Accomplish? Discussion by the secretary. Consider what was accomplished during the Memorial season, and commend the congregation for its activity. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed while distributing Memorial invitations.
15 min: How Did He Grasp Your Hand? (Isa. 41:13) Interview one or two longtime faithful servants in the congregation regarding how Jehovah has helped them overcome challenges in their service.
Song 107 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 29, 2015. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. What was wrong with the way that Michal spoke to David, and what lesson should married couples take to heart from this account? (2 Sam. 6:20-23) [May 11, *w11* 8/1 p. 12 par. 1]
2. How did the prophet Nathan react when Jehovah corrected him for telling David to go ahead and build a temple for Jehovah? (2 Sam. 7:2, 3) [May 11, *w12* 2/15 p. 24 pars. 6-7]
3. Why did Nathan relate the parable recorded at 2 Samuel 12:1-7 instead of just telling David directly that he was guilty of serious sin? How can this account help us to be better teachers? [May 18, *w12* 2/15 p. 24 pars. 2-3]
4. Why was Absalom able to deceive the Israelites, and how can we protect ourselves from the "Absaloms" of our day? (2 Sam. 15:6) [May 25, *w12* 7/15 p. 13 par. 7]
5. How did Jehovah provide for David during a time of dire need, and what can we learn from this? (2 Sam. 17:27-29) [June 1, *w08* 9/15 p. 6 pars. 15-16]
6. How can we benefit from David's example in his dealings with a foreigner named Ittai? (2 Sam. 18:2) [June 1, *w09* 5/15 p. 27 par. 7]
7. How might older ones in the congregation benefit from the example of Barzillai? (2 Sam. 19:33-35) [June 8, *w07* 7/15 p. 15 pars. 1-2]
8. How do David's words about loyalty assure Jehovah's servants today? (2 Sam. 22:26) [June 15, *w10* 6/1 p. 26 pars. 6-7]
9. How did Nathan display loyalty to God, and how can we imitate that quality today? (1 Ki. 1:11-14) [June 22, *w12* 2/15 p. 25 pars. 1, 4-5]
10. In what areas of life might a servant of God use imperfect reasoning to get around God's commands, as Solomon apparently did? (1 Ki. 3:1) [June 29, *w11* 12/15 p. 10 pars. 12-14]

WEEK STARTING JUNE 29

Song 9 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 26 ¶18-23, box on p. 269 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 3-6 (8 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 118
15 min: The Offer for July. Discussion. Consider features of the literature that will be offered, and have a demonstration of a publisher assisting a newer one with a presentation.
15 min: Benefit From the *2015 Yearbook*. Discussion. Briefly review "A Letter From the Governing Body." Invite comments on outstanding aspects of the worldwide report. Encourage all to complete their reading of the *Yearbook*.
Song 108 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING JULY 6

Song 80 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 27 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 7-8 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Kings 8:27-34 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Cornelius—Theme: Jehovah God Is Not Partial—*it*-1 p. 513 (5 min.)
No. 3: How Can You Cope With Anxiety?—*nwt* p. 28 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 69
10 min: Offer the Magazines During July. Discussion. Start by having a demonstration, using the two sample presentations provided. Then analyze the presentations from beginning to end.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Starting a Doorstep Bible Study Using the *Good News From God!* Brochure." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.
Song 67 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **July and August:** *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **September:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ All tracts and invitations left with individuals or at not-at-homes should be reported in the "Brochures and Tracts" column when filling out your personal field service report at the end of the month. When a person shows interest and accepts literature, even a tract, efforts should be made to call back to further his interest.

■ Beginning the week of October 19, 2015, the book *Imitate Their Faith* will be considered at the Congregation Bible Study. Congregations needing additional copies should ask for them on their next literature request. Those who prefer electronic publications should download a copy from jw.org rather than obtain a printed book.

■ Since August has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"In view of life's uncertainties, do you think that Jesus' words about coping with anxieties are practical? [Read Matthew 6:25, and allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses how applying Bible principles can help to minimize anxiety related to money concerns, family problems, and personal danger."

Awake!® July

"Many people today are overwhelmed by their circumstances in life. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] The Bible indicates that our attitude is important when we face challenges. [Read Proverbs 24:10.] This magazine offers practical suggestions on how to cope with difficult circumstances and provides real-life examples of some who are doing so."

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report that in December 2014 the United States had a 4.4 percent increase in Bible studies compared with the same month of the previous year. There were also increases in Bible studies in the following locations: Bahamas (2.2 percent), Bermuda (6.6 percent), Cayman Islands (29.7 percent), Jamaica (2 percent), and Turks and Caicos Islands (5.3 percent). It is encouraging to see Jehovah's blessing on the disciple-making work!—Matt. 28:19, 20.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JULY 2015

MONTHLY THEME: 'Go and make disciples.'—Matt. 28:19, 20.

WEEK STARTING JULY 13

Song 75 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 27 ¶10-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 9-11 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Kings 9:24–10:3 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Reduce Anxiety by Taking to Heart God's Word—*nwt* p. 28 ¶4–p. 29 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Cyrus—Theme: God's Word Always Comes True—*it*-1 pp. 566-569 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 17
10 min: Go and Make Disciples. Talk based on the monthly theme. Include points from *"Come Be My Follower,"* pages 87-89. Preview some of the Service Meeting parts, and discuss how they relate to the theme for the month.
10 min: They Were Alert to Start a Bible Study. Discussion based on the *2015 Yearbook,* page 55, paragraph 1, to page 56, paragraph 1; and page 69, paragraphs 2-5. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: "Maintain Focus on Making Disciples." Questions and answers. Briefly interview one or two publishers who are effective at starting and conducting Bible studies. What joy have they received from aiding someone into the truth?
Song 16 and Prayer

Maintain Focus on Making Disciples

[1] The 2014 annual service report reflects the zeal of God's people and their determination to preach the good news of the Kingdom. (Matt. 24:14) By means of the house-to-house work, special campaigns to distribute tracts and invitations, and our public witnessing initiatives, we are reaching more people with the Bible's message than ever before. However, if individuals are to be saved, we must help them to become disciples of Jesus by studying the Bible with them.—1 Tim. 2:4.

[2] **Be Bible-Study Conscious:** When a person shows interest, do you endeavor to obtain his contact information and then call back promptly with the goal of starting a Bible study? When was the last time that you tried demonstrating a Bible study on the initial call? When did you last offer a Bible study to those on your magazine route? Have you shown the videos *Why Study the Bible?* and *What Happens at a Bible Study?* to workmates, schoolmates, neighbors, relatives, and other acquaintances? When using a literature display, do you endeavor to inform those who take a study publication that it comes with a free Bible study?

[3] **Help From Jehovah and Jesus:** By beginning his command to "make disciples" with the word "go," Jesus indicated that we need to exert effort and show initiative. However, he did not leave us on our own but promised to be with us. (Matt. 28:19, 20) In addition, Jehovah has given us his holy spirit as well as the tools and the training that we need to teach people the truth. (Zech. 4:6; 2 Cor. 4:7) We can pray for "both the desire and the power" to share in this important work.—Phil. 2:13.

[4] Preaching the good news brings us much happiness. However, our joy is increased when we teach a person the truth and help him to join us on "the road leading off into life." (Matt. 7:14; 1 Thess. 2:19, 20) More important, by maintaining our focus on making disciples, we please Jehovah who "does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance."—2 Pet. 3:9.

1. What is needed in order for people to be saved?
2. Asking ourselves what questions will help us to be Bible-study conscious?
3. In order to teach the truth successfully, what is required?
4. Why should we maintain our focus on making disciples?

WEEK STARTING JULY 20

Song 73 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 27 ¶19-22, box on p. 279 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 12-14 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Kings 12:21-30 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Daniel (No. 2)—Theme: Jehovah Blesses Whole-Souled Devotion—*it*-1 pp. 576-577 (5 min.)
No. 3: How Can the Bible Help Husbands and Fathers?—*nwt* p. 30 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 89

20 min: Use Illustrated Bible Stories to Help Your Children Become Disciples. Discussion based on the illustrated Bible story "God Sends Moses to Egypt." (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > CHILDREN.) Project the story on a screen so that the audience can follow along. If possible, assign children to read the parts of each character. Afterward, with the parents' approval, invite selected children to the stage for a group discussion of the questions in the box "What Do We Learn From This Story?" Conclude by encouraging parents to make use of this tool to help their children become disciples.

10 min: Question Box. Discussion.

Song 66 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ **Should publishers make extensive use of the Internet to witness to or to study with strangers living in another country?**

Some publishers have used the Internet to obtain Bible studies in lands where our work is restricted or where there are few publishers. In some cases, good results have been achieved. However, there are dangers when publishers participate in e-mail exchanges or chat room discussions with strangers. (See the July 2007 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 3.) While the intent is to reach honesthearted ones with the Kingdom message, such discussions may lead a brother or a sister into contact with bad association, including apostates. (1 Cor. 1:19-25; Col. 2:8) Furthermore, in lands where the Kingdom work is restricted or under ban, correspondence might be monitored by the authorities. Such communication could endanger the local brothers and sisters. Therefore, ***publishers should not go online to seek out people from another country with whom to share the good news.***

Unless directed otherwise by the local branch office, if we witness informally to a stranger who is *visiting* from another country, we should not try to cultivate his interest after he returns home. Instead, we can show him how he can use jw.org to obtain additional information or how he can contact the local branch office. We can also encourage him to visit a Kingdom Hall near his home. Of course, there are no Kingdom Halls in some countries. If he wishes to be visited by Witnesses from his area, we should fill out a *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form and give it to the secretary, who will forward it using jw.org. The branch office that oversees the work in the country where the interested person lives is familiar with the unique circumstances there and will be in the best position to provide spiritual help.—See the June 2014 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 7, and the November 2011 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 2.

If a person we are *currently calling on* moves to another country or if we are *currently studying* with a person in another land whom we know only through the Internet, we should follow the direction outlined above. However, we may continue to cultivate the interest until the person is contacted by the local publishers. Nevertheless, if he lives in a land where our work is restricted or banned, great caution should be used when Bible topics are discussed by letter, telephone, or electronic means.—Matt. 10:16.

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WEEK STARTING JULY 27

Song 18 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 28 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Kings 15-17 (8 min.)

No. 1: 1 Kings 15:16-24 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: How Can the Bible Help Wives?—*nwt* p. 30 ¶3-4 (5 min.)

No. 3: David—Theme: Youths, Prepare Now to Serve Jehovah Courageously—*it*-1 pp. 585-591 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 65

10 min: Are You Improving Your Skills in the Ministry? Discussion. Review the first paragraph in the February 2014 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* which outlines the purpose of the "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry" series. Briefly review some of the past articles. Invite the audience to relate specific benefits they have received from this series. Encourage publishers to give special attention to the skill highlighted each month by applying the suggestions under the subheading "Try This During the Month."

10 min: Use "An Introduction to God's Word"—To Help Your Bible Student. Discussion. Consider how we can use the following features to help our Bible student make good use of the Bible: (1) "How to Find Bible Verses." (2) Question 19: "What is contained in the various books of the Bible?" (3) Question 20: "How can you get the most out of your Bible reading?" Include a brief demonstration of a publisher discussing one of these features with his student at the end of a study session.

10 min: "Our Teaching Toolbox." Questions and answers.

Song 125 and Prayer

Our Teaching Toolbox

[1] Craftsmen use a variety of tools. While some tools are occasionally needed for specialized tasks, other basic tools are used frequently. Experienced craftsmen always have these basic tools in their toolbox, and these are the ones that they are the most skillful at using. The Bible encourages each Christian to apply himself in the ministry and to be "a workman with nothing to be ashamed of." (2 Tim. 2:15) What is the most important tool in our toolbox? It is God's Word—the principal tool we use to "make disciples." (Matt. 28:19, 20) Therefore, we should endeavor to become skillful at "handling the word of the truth aright." However, there are other frequently used tools in our teaching toolbox that all Christians should learn to use skillfully to teach people the truth.—Prov. 22:29.

[2] **Our Basic Teaching Tools:** Besides the Bible, what other tools should we use? The primary tool we have for teaching Bible truths is *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* After completing a study of this book with a student, we use *"Keep Yourselves in God's Love"* to teach him to apply Bible principles in everyday life. Therefore, we should become proficient in using these two publications. Certain brochures should also be included in our teaching toolbox. *Good News From God!* is one of our main tools for starting Bible studies. If our territory has people who have limited reading ability or those who speak a language for which we have few or no publications, then we could also use *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* A basic teaching tool for directing students to the organization is *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* Videos that are helpful in making disciples, such as *Why Study the Bible?, What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?,* and *Does God Have a Name?,* are tools that we should also learn to use well.

[3] Future issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry* will help us become skilled in using the handful of basic publications in our teaching toolbox. As we endeavor to use these tools adeptly, we will be heeding the inspired counsel: "Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching. Persevere in these things, for by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you."—1 Tim. 4:16.

1. How are Christian evangelizers like craftsmen?

2. What are our basic teaching tools?

3. What will future issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry* help us to do?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 3

Song 63 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 28 ¶10-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 18-20 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Kings 18:30-40 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Deborah (No. 2)—Theme: Faithful Women Praise Jehovah—*it*-1 p. 600 (5 min.)
No. 3: How Can the Bible Help Children?—*nwt* p. 31 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 130
10 min: Offer the Magazines During August. Discussion. Start by having a demonstration of how the magazines may be offered, using the sample presentations provided. Then analyze each sample presentation from beginning to end.
10 min: Benefit From *Examining the Scriptures Daily.* Discussion. Begin with a five-minute talk based on the 2015 yeartext. Afterward, invite publishers to comment on when they set aside time to consider the text each day. Conclude by encouraging all to make good use of *Examining the Scriptures Daily.*
10 min: Local needs.
Song 26 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ Groups of 20 or more planning to visit the United States branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill should first correspond with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204, or at fax number (845) 306-0200. At least three weeks prior to visiting, please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the March 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box and the brochure *Dress and Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel.*

■ Since August has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® August 1

"We're visiting briefly to help our neighbors cope with a common problem. One of the most difficult things we have to deal with is the death of a loved one. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] Notice this encouraging promise from the Bible. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] The Bible gives us hope that one day our dead loved ones will come back to life. This magazine explains how this will happen."

Awake!® August

"We are showing our neighbors an article that discusses the extraordinary amount of information contained in our cells. [Show the cover of *Awake!*] Many believe that life came about by evolution, while others feel that life was created. What is your opinion? [Allow for response.] This magazine highlights discoveries about the amazing complexity of cells, which has prompted some scientists to wonder if life had a Designer."

Field Service Highlights

When comparing this January with the same month last year, there were increases in return visits of 8.7 percent in Bermuda, 4.7 percent in Jamaica, and 6.8 percent in the United States. These figures show that there is still much work to be done in helping others 'come to know' Jehovah.—John 17:3.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

AUGUST 2015

MONTHLY THEME: "As for me and my household, we will serve Jehovah." —Josh. 24:15.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 10

Song 61 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 28 ¶18-21, box on p. 289 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Kings 21-22 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Kings 22:13-23 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: How Can You Draw Close to God?—*nwt* p. 32 ¶1-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: Delilah—Theme: The Love of Money Can Lead to Betrayal—*it*-1 pp. 608-609 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 41
10 min: "As for Me and My Household, We Will Serve Jehovah." Talk based on the monthly theme. Read and apply Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; Joshua 24:15; and Proverbs 22:6. Emphasize that husbands and fathers must take the lead spiritually. Highlight various tools provided by the organization to help families. Mention some of the Service Meeting parts for the month and how they relate to the theme.
20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Training New Ones." Discussion. Ask the audience how parents can apply the principles mentioned in the article when helping their children to make spiritual progress. Have a demonstration of a father preparing a presentation with his young son or daughter.
Song 93 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Training New Ones

Why Important: New disciples of Jesus must learn to observe "all the things" he commanded, which includes teaching the truth to others. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Many new ones have already qualified to join the Theocratic Ministry School and may have witnessed informally to family members or friends. However, as they grow in appreciation for what they are learning and come to know that Jehovah wants all people to hear the good news, they may express a desire to share in the field ministry. (Rom. 10:13, 14) After new ones are approved as unbaptized publishers, good training will help them be more confident as they take this necessary step in their spiritual progress.—Luke 6:40.

How to Do It:

- Help the new publisher obtain the publications he will need for preaching and teaching. Show him how you organize your witnessing case, and explain the purpose of each publication you carry.
- Together, select a sample presentation from *Our Kingdom Ministry* and practice it. Encourage the new one to put the presentation in his own words. Rehearse settings from the *Ministry School* book, page 82, that are common in your territory. Emphasize the importance of modest dress and grooming.—2 Cor. 6:3, 4.
- Provide progressive training. Show the new publisher a territory card, and teach him how to use a house-to-house record. Demonstrate how to make a record of interested ones. Teach him how to use jw.org in the ministry as well as the booklet *Good News for People of All Nations*. Help him cultivate the interest he finds. —1 Cor. 3:6.
- Be patient, and offer commendation. (Prov. 25:11) Set a good example. Your zeal and the personal interest you show will have a positive effect for years to come.

Try This During the Month:

- Work in the house-to-house ministry with your student, and take him on a return visit or a Bible study. If you do not have a student, invite a less experienced publisher to work with you.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 17

Song 5 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 29 ¶1-10 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 1-4 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Kings 1:11-18 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Dinah—Theme: Bad Associations Can Lead to Tragedy—*it*-1 p. 627 (5 min.)
No. 3: Things We Must Do to Draw Close to God—*nwt* p. 32 ¶5–p. 33 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 52
30 min: ***"These Words . . . Must Be on Your Heart."*** Questions and answers. Use the information in the first and last paragraphs for a brief introduction and conclusion.
Song 88 and Prayer

"These Words . . . Must Be on Your Heart"

Parents are like shepherds. They must take good care of their children, who could easily stray and become vulnerable to attack. (Prov. 27:23) How can parents fulfill this role? They must spend time each day communicating with their children in order to know what is in their minds and hearts. (Prov. 20:5) Also, parents must build with fire-resistant materials to fortify the faith of their children. (1 Cor. 3:10-15) The video *"These Words . . . Must Be on Your Heart"* underscores the importance of regular family worship. View it as a family, and then discuss the following questions.

(1) What led to the Roman family's lack of spiritual focus? **(2)** Why was Brother Roman's initial attempt at family worship unsuccessful? **(3)** What Scriptural formula leads to the best chance of success in raising children? (Deut. 6:6, 7) **(4)** What can contribute to better communication in the family? **(5)** What kind of sacrifices do children need their parents to make? **(6)** How were Brother and Sister Barrow a positive influence on the Roman family? (Prov. 27:17) **(7)** What must a family head do in advance in order to make family worship successful? **(8)** How did Brother Roman begin to turn things around in his family? **(9)** Why is consistency vital for family worship? (Eph. 6:4) **(10)** What are some practical ideas for family worship? **(11)** How was Brother Roman calm but firm when helping Marcus to appreciate the importance of doing what is right? (Jer. 17:9) **(12)** How did Brother and Sister Roman reason with Rebecca to help her make the right decision regarding her relationship with Justin? (Mark 12:30; 2 Tim. 2:22) **(13)** How did Brother and Sister Roman manifest faith when making adjustments in their lives? (Matt. 6:33) **(14)** How does this video emphasize the need for family heads to provide spiritually for their families? (1 Tim. 5:8) **(15)** What is your determination as a family head?

NOTE TO FAMILY HEADS: This modern-day drama was presented at the regional conventions in 2011. At that time, did you detect a need for improvements in your family worship? What about now? If further adjustments are needed, please prayerfully make changes for the everlasting benefit of your family.—Eph. 5:15-17.

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WEEK STARTING AUGUST 24

Song 21 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 29 ¶11-15 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 5-8 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Kings 6:20-31 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Is Contained in the Various Books of the Hebrew Scriptures?—*nwt* p. 34 (5 min.)
No. 3: Doeg—Theme: Beware of Those Who Love What Is Bad—*it*-1 p. 644 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 40
15 min: Local needs.
15 min: How Can You Improve the Quality of Your Family Worship? Discussion based on the January 2011 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 6. Draw attention to the various Family Worship projects that appear on jw.org. (Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > CHILDREN.) Emphasize that family worship should be tailored to the needs of one's family and should build faith in Jehovah and his promises.
Song 130 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 31

Song 42 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 29 ¶16-21, box on p. 299 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 9-11 (8 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 95
10 min: Offer the Magazines During September. Discussion. Start by having a demonstration, using the sample presentations provided. Then analyze each presentation.
10 min: Are You Receiving "Food at the Proper Time"? Talk based on the article in the August 15, 2014, *Watchtower,* pages 3-5. Encourage all to make good use of the spiritual food available to them.
10 min: What Are Your Spiritual Goals for the 2016 Service Year? Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 118, paragraph 3. Have a demonstration of a couple discussing their spiritual goals for the new service year.
Song 10 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 31, 2015.

1. What faith-strengthening truths about Jehovah God do we find in Solomon's prayer, and how will meditating on those truths benefit us? (1 Ki. 8:22-24, 28) [July 6, *w05* 7/1 p. 30 par. 3]
2. How can David's example of walking "with integrity of heart" encourage us to do the same? (1 Ki. 9:4) [July 13, *w12* 11/15 p. 7 pars. 18-19]
3. What vital lesson can we draw from the account about Jehovah sending Elijah to the widow of Zarephath? (1 Ki. 17:8-14) [July 27, *w14* 2/15 p. 14]
4. How can meditating on the account at 1 Kings 17:10-16 strengthen our determination to have complete confidence in Jehovah? [July 27, *w14* 2/15 pp. 13-15]
5. How can we benefit from the example that Elijah set in coping with feelings of desperation? (1 Ki. 19:4) [Aug. 3, *ia* pp. 102-103 pars. 10-12; *w14* 3/15 p. 15 pars. 15-16]
6. How did Jehovah react when he saw his faithful prophet Elijah in despair, and how can we imitate our loving God? (1 Ki. 19:7, 8) [Aug. 3, *w14* 6/15 p. 27 pars. 15-16]
7. What wrong view did King Ahab have, and how can Christians today avoid making a similar mistake? [Aug. 10, *lv* pp. 164-165, box; *w14* 2/1 p. 14 pars. 3-4]
8. What can we learn from the request that Elisha made of Elijah, and how can this help us when we receive a new assignment in Kingdom service? (2 Ki. 2:9, 10) [Aug. 17, *w03* 11/1 p. 31 pars. 5-6]
9. How can young ones imitate the faith and courage of the little Israelite girl mentioned at 2 Kings 5:1-3? [Aug. 24, *w12* 2/15 pp. 12-13 par. 11]
10. What qualities of Jehu should all servants of Jehovah strive to emulate during this time of the end? (2 Ki. 10:16) [Aug. 31, *w11* 11/15 p. 5 par. 4]

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 7

Song 3 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 30 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 12-15 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Kings 13:12-19 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Dorcas—Theme: Genuine Christians Abound in Good Works—*it*-1 p. 646 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Is Contained in the Various Books of the Christian Greek Scriptures?—*nwt* p. 35 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 89
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Training New Ones." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.
10 min: Families, Is Congregation Meeting Attendance Your Custom? Talk based on Hebrews 10:24, 25. Interview a family with children. How does the family head ensure that meetings are a priority? How does each person contribute to the family's regular attendance? When do they prepare comments? What sacrifices do they make to be present? Conclude by encouraging all to attend and participate regularly.
10 min: Can You Sow Seeds of Bible Truth With Your Relatives? (Acts 10:24, 33, 48) Discussion based on the *2015 Yearbook,* page 87, paragraphs 1-2; and page 90, paragraphs 1-3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
Song 118 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **August:** *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *Can the Dead Really Live Again?, How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, What Is the Kingdom of God?, Who Really Controls the World?, Will Suffering Ever End?*

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Are God's Ways Really Beneficial?"

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM September 1

"Have you ever wondered where the name Jehovah's Witnesses originated? [Allow for response.] The answer is found in the Bible, where God reveals his personal name. [Read Psalm 83:18.] As Witnesses for Jehovah, we make known the good news about him and his purpose for mankind. This issue of *The Watchtower* clears up many common misconceptions about us."

Awake!® September

"Most people agree that we need money in order to live. But do you think it is dangerous to be obsessed with money? [Allow for response.] Notice the Bible's warning. [Read 1 Timothy 6:9.] This magazine explains how we can develop a balanced view of money."

Field Service Highlights

When comparing February 2015 with the same month last year, Puerto Rico increased in regular pioneers by 7.9 percent, the Turks and Caicos Islands by 5.6 percent, and the United States by 4.1 percent. Having rested our hope on the living God, let us continue working hard and exerting ourselves in the ministry.—1 Tim. 4:10.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2015

MONTHLY THEME: "Bear thorough witness to the good news."
—Acts 20:24.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 14

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 30 ¶10-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 16-18 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Kings 17:12-18 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: How Can You Get the Most out of Your Bible Reading?—*nwt* p. 36 (5 min.)
No. 3: Ebed-melech—Theme: Be Fearless, and Honor Jehovah's Servants—*it*-1 pp. 672-673 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 23
10 min: "Bear Thorough Witness to the Good News." Talk based on the monthly theme and the *Bearing Witness* book, chapter 1, paragraphs 1-11.—Acts 20:24.
20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing in Business Territory." Discussion. Include a brief two-part demonstration. First, show a publisher using poor judgment when attempting to witness to a businessperson. Then, demonstrate the situation again, but this time with the publisher using good judgment. Afterward, invite comments on why the second approach is more effective.
Song 96 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing in Business Territory

Why Important: Since many people work long hours, often the best way to reach them with the Kingdom message is by witnessing to them at their workplace. Witnessing in business territory can be enjoyable and productive because there are no not-at-homes and workers tend to be polite to those they view as potential customers. In order to be effective, publishers must use good judgment and be exemplary in their dress and grooming. (2 Cor. 6:3) *Therefore, the service overseer should carefully monitor how often business territories are worked and by whom.*

How to Do It:

- Prepare a presentation that is brief. If we take too much of the worker's time, we may not be given opportunities to speak to him in the future.
- Choose a time to visit when the businesses are less busy, such as when they first open.
- Endeavor to speak first with the person in charge. Be warm and friendly. You might say, "We are visiting people briefly at their workplace because it is difficult to find them at home." Give him a brief presentation, and offer a tract, the magazines, or another piece of literature. So that we will not be confused with salesmen, it is best not to mention the donation arrangement unless we are asked how our work is financed.
- If the person in charge is friendly, ask for permission to speak briefly to the other workers. At some businesses, it may be better to ask if you can leave some reading material in the break room.
- Use good judgment, and be flexible. For example, if a worker is talking to a customer or is busy, wait until he is free before approaching him.

Try This During the Month:

- During your next Family Worship evening, practice a brief presentation you might use if you work in business territory.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 21

Song 53 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 30 ¶19-23, box on p. 309 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 19-22 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Kings 20:12-21 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Ehud (No. 2)—Theme: Jehovah Delivers His People—*it*-1 p. 700 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Does the Word "Amen" Mean? —Glossary, *nwt* p. 1692 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 97
10 min: How Did We Do Last Service Year? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past year. Focus on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Mention one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on this year, and offer practical suggestions.
10 min: Bearing Thorough Witness Gets Results. Discussion based on the *2015 Yearbook,* page 54, paragraph 1; page 56, paragraph 2, to page 57, paragraph 1; and page 63, paragraph 2, to page 64, paragraph 1. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: ***"Imitate Their Faith."*** Questions and answers.
Song 81 and Prayer

Imitate Their Faith

[1] During the week of October 19, 2015, we will begin consideration of the *Imitate Their Faith* book at the Congregation Bible Study. This publication examines the Biblical accounts of 14 men and women of faith. It does so in such a way that these faithful ones come to life in our mind, helping us to see them as real people who faced challenges as they served Jehovah. The book also draws lessons from those accounts to help us make personal application today.—Heb. 6:12.

1. What will we consider at the Congregation Bible Study starting the week of October 19?

[2] **Features:** The book includes a time line and maps to help us determine when and where each character lived. Additionally, each chapter has a feature entitled "To Think About . . . ," which will help us to meditate on the accounts and apply the practical lessons we have learned. The book is also richly illustrated with colorful, detailed, and carefully researched artwork, which helps bring the accounts to life.

[3] **How You Can Benefit:** The opening letter from the Governing Body encourages us with these words: "Use your imagination; get your senses involved. Try to feel what those Bible characters felt, to see what they saw. Compare how they reacted in a given situation with the way you would likely have responded." Of course, to use our imagination does not mean to speculate wildly but, rather, to picture what the inspired account says and to empathize with the people involved. Doing so requires time and meditation. (Neh. 8:8) If the lesson begins in the middle of a chapter, the conductor will start with a 30- to 60-second review of the previous lesson. One or two questions may be asked as a concluding review if the lesson does not include the feature "To Think About . . ."

[4] We live in a world that seeks, every day, to erode or weaken our faith in one way or another. This book—as well as the ongoing series in *The Watchtower* on which it is based—is a gift from Jehovah to help us strengthen our faith. (Jas. 1:17) Let us take full advantage of it by attending the Congregation Bible Study regularly and having as full a share in commenting as possible while we study this publication together!

2. Explain some features of the *Imitate Their Faith* book.
3. What can we do to benefit from our study of this publication?
4. Why do we need to study the *Imitate Their Faith* book?

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WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 28

Song 73 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 31 ¶1-12 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Kings 23-25 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Kings 23:8-15 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Roles Do Angels Play in God's Purpose?—Glossary, *nwt* pp. 1692-1693 (5 min.)
No. 3: Eleazar (No. 1)—Theme: Steadfastly Serve Jehovah—*it*-1 p. 705 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 93
10 min: Paul and His Companions Bear Thorough Witness in Philippi. Discussion. Have Acts 16:11-15 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.
20 min: "Teaching With the *Good News* Brochure." Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 3, have a well-prepared demonstration showing a publisher offering the *Good News* brochure and discussing one paragraph.
Song 114 and Prayer

Teaching With the *Good News* Brochure

[1] As discussed in the July issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* one important tool in our teaching toolbox is the brochure *Good News From God!* Cited scriptures are not quoted so that householders can enjoy learning directly from the Bible itself. While many of our study publications are written in such a way that the reader can learn on his own, this publication was designed to be discussed with an instructor. Therefore, when we offer it, we should try to demonstrate the study so that the householder can see how thrilling it is to learn good news from the Bible.—Matt. 13:44.

1. How is the *Good News* brochure designed?

[2] **On the Initial Call:** You might say: "I'm here because people are concerned about where this world is heading. Do you think conditions will ever improve? [Allow for response.] The Bible contains good news that can give us hope. Here are some of the questions that the Bible answers." Hand the householder the brochure, and invite him to choose a question from the back cover. Then demonstrate the study using the first paragraph of that lesson. Another option is to ask the householder an interest-arousing question based on a lesson *you* chose and then demonstrate how the brochure can help him find the Bible's answer. If that lesson has a corresponding video on jw.org, some publishers play it during their presentation.

[3] **How to Conduct the Study:** (1) Read the numbered question in bold print to help the householder focus on the main point. (2) Read the paragraph that follows. (3) Read the italicized scriptures, and use tactful questions to help the householder to see how the scriptures answer the numbered question. (4) If there is another paragraph under the question, repeat steps 2 and 3. If a video matches the question and you have not yet played it for the householder, do so at some point in the discussion. (5) Finally, ask for the householder's answer to the numbered question to make sure he understands.

[4] Get familiar with this valuable tool. Use it on every appropriate occasion. Before each study, think about the student and the best way to reason with him, using the scriptures in the lesson. (Prov. 15:28; Acts 17:2, 3) As you gain experience and skill, you may very well view this brochure as one of your favorite tools to use in teaching people the truth!

2. How can we use the *Good News* brochure on the initial call?
3. Explain how to conduct a study using the *Good News* brochure.
4. What will help us to use this valuable tool with skill?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 5

Song 13 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 31 ¶13-20 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 1-4 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Chronicles 1:28-42 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Eli, I—Theme: Permissiveness Dishonors God—*it*-1 pp. 706-707 (5 min.)
No. 3: To Whom Does the Term "Antichrist" Refer?—Glossary, *nwt* p. 1693 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 82
10 min: Offer the Magazines During October. Discussion. Start by having two demonstrations, using the sample presentations provided. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Witnessing in Business Territory." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.
Song 98 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *Can the Dead Really Live Again?, How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, What Is the Kingdom of God?, Who Really Controls the World?, Will Suffering Ever End?*

■ The special public talk for the 2016 Memorial season will be given during the week of March 28. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having an assembly that weekend or the visit of the circuit overseer will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before March 28.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM October 1

"We're showing everyone in the neighborhood this interesting issue of *The Watchtower.* [Show the cover.] Some people think that prayer is just a waste of time, that no one is listening. Others believe that God hears their prayers. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says about prayer. [Read Isaiah 30:19.] This magazine provides evidence that God hears and answers prayers that are made in the right way and for the right things."

Awake!® October

"We are making brief visits on our neighbors because many wonder why God allows suffering. Do you think it is disrespectful to question God about such things? [Allow for response.] The righteous man Job expressed a desire to question God. [Read Job 23:3-5.] This magazine considers three questions that many people would like to ask God, if given the chance, and the satisfying answers that the Bible provides."

Field Service Highlights

In the United States a total of 170,798 publishers served as auxiliary pioneers during the month of March 2015. This is over 1,000 more than the previous March. Additionally, there were increases of 6.1 percent in auxiliary pioneers in the Cayman Islands and 12.1 percent in the Turks and Caicos Islands when compared with March 2014. No doubt, such increased activity brings joy to our heavenly Father.—Prov. 27:11.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2015

MONTHLY THEME: Become "rooted" and "stabilized in the faith."—Col. 2:6, 7.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 12

Song 135 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 31 ¶21-23, box on p. 319 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 5-7 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Chronicles 6:48-60 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Is Apostasy?—Glossary, *nwt* p. 1693 (5 min.)
No. 3: Elihu (No. 1)—Theme: True Friends Speak the Truth—*it*-1 p. 710 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 117
10 min: Become "Rooted" and "Stabilized in the Faith." Talk based on the monthly theme. What does it mean to become "rooted" and "stabilized in the faith," and how can we accomplish this? (See *The Watchtower,* June 1, 1998, pp. 10-12.) Read and apply Colossians 2:6, 7; Hebrews 6:1; and Jude 20, 21. Preview some of the Service Meeting parts for the month, and discuss how they relate to the theme.
20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Training Bible Students to Develop Good Study Habits." Discussion. Include a demonstration of an experienced publisher showing a Bible student how to use *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY* to answer a Bible question.
Song 116 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Training Bible Students to Develop Good Study Habits

Why Important: In order to progress to spiritual maturity, Bible students must nourish their minds and hearts with more than the basic teachings of God's Word. (Heb. 5:12–6:1) Study requires effort. It includes relating new information to what we already know and discerning its practical value. (Prov. 2:1-6) Learning to do personal research will enable students to answer Bible questions using our Christian publications. The earnest effort that they put forth to apply what they learn will equip them to withstand trials they will face as Christians. —Luke 6:47, 48.

How to Do It:

- Emphasize the importance of seeking Jehovah's help in prayer prior to each study session.—John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:10.
- From the outset, encourage your student to prepare in advance for his Bible study. Show him your study copy, and teach him how to underline or highlight only key words or phrases.
- Have your student answer the questions in his own words. Avoid turning the study into a dry question-and-answer session in which the student simply reads answers directly from the book.
- Encourage your student to read a portion of God's Word daily. Show him the Bible reading schedule on jw.org, which outlines a practical way he can do this. Developing the habit of reading the Bible daily will require determination, but the effort will be worthwhile.—Ps. 1:2, 3.
- Show your student how he can find answers to Bible questions using *Watchtower Library* or *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY.* Help him identify the mnemonic symbols for publications commonly used at congregation meetings.

Try This During the Month:

- At the end of a subheading or a chapter, ask your Bible student to summarize in a few sentences what he has just learned. If you do not have a student, practice summarizing a passage from the Bible or a paragraph from *The Watchtower* in a few sentences to improve your own reading comprehension.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 19

Song 54 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia pp. 2-3 and intro. ¶1-15 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 8-11 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Chronicles 11:15-25 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Elijah (No. 1)—Theme: Never Underestimate the Power of Prayer—*it*-1 pp. 710-713 (5 min.)
No. 3: Who Is the Archangel?—Glossary, *nwt* p. 1693 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 83
20 min: "How to Reach the Heart of Those We Teach." Questions and answers. Present two contrasting demonstrations. A householder says that her child has died and is now in heaven. In the first demonstration, the publisher responds by reading Ecclesiastes 9:5 regarding the condition of the dead. The householder is not comforted by the verse and responds negatively. In the second demonstration, the publisher tactfully directs attention to the resurrection hope by reading John 5:28, 29 and receives a much better response from the householder.
10 min: Whether Young or Old, Be a Good Example for Others. (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12) Discussion based on the *2015 Yearbook,* page 71, paragraph 2, to page 72, paragraph 4; and pages 76-77. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
Song 90 and Prayer

How to Reach the Heart of Those We Teach

[1] Jesus Christ reached the heart of his listeners. On at least one occasion, the hearts of his disciples were "burning" after he clearly explained the Scriptures to them. (Luke 24:32) Since obedience to God must come from the heart, how can we stir the emotions of those whom we teach in order to prompt them to make changes in their life?—Rom. 6:17.

1. What effect did Jesus' teaching have on the hearts of his listeners?

[2] **Use Tact and Discernment:** For many people, simply telling them what is right and what is wrong will not move them to action. In fact, attacking their religious beliefs with a barrage of scriptures may even push them away. To motivate a person, we must first discern the reasons why he believes and acts as he does. Tactful, well-chosen viewpoint questions will encourage him to express his innermost thoughts. (Prov. 20:5) Only then can we select information from God's Word that may touch his heart. Therefore, we must show personal interest and be patient. (Prov. 25:15) Remember that individuals make spiritual progress at different rates. Allow time for Jehovah's holy spirit to influence their thinking and actions.—Mark 4:26-29.

[3] **Help Them Cultivate Positive Qualities:** Bible passages that illustrate Jehovah's goodness and love can help those we teach to cultivate positive qualities. We can use such scriptures as Psalm 139:1-4 or Luke 12:6, 7 to show the degree of God's personal interest in each of us. When individuals develop heart appreciation for Jehovah's undeserved kindness, their love and godly devotion will grow. (Rom. 5:6-8; 1 John 4:19) Also, when they learn that their conduct affects Jehovah personally, they may be motivated to act in a way that will please and honor him.—Ps. 78:40, 41; Prov. 23:15.

[4] Jehovah does not force anyone to obey his commands. Rather, he appeals to individuals by showing them the wisdom of following his advice. (Isa. 48:17, 18) We imitate Jehovah when we teach in a manner that helps people to reach their own conclusions. When individuals convince themselves of the need to make changes in their life, the results are long-lasting. (Rom. 12:2) It also draws them ever closer to "the examiner of hearts," Jehovah. —Prov. 17:3.

2. What role do tact and discernment play in reaching a person's heart?
3. How can we help those whom we teach to cultivate positive qualities?
4. When teaching individuals in our ministry, how can we show respect for a person's freedom of choice?

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WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 26

Song 15 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 1 ¶1-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 12-15 (8 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 120
10 min: Literature Offer for November. Discussion. Generate enthusiasm for offering the tracts and the *Bible Teach* book. Briefly consider pertinent points from the April 2014 *Our Kingdom Ministry* article "Exciting Design for New Tracts!" Include a demonstration appropriate for your territory.
20 min: "Does God's Word Have Power in Your Daily Life?" Talk. After a brief introduction, play the dramatic Bible reading from jw.org entitled "Do Not Give Out When Corrected by Jehovah!" Emphasize how meditating on God's Word can help us to isolate principles for personal application. Conclude by encouraging all to benefit from the dramatic Bible readings on jw.org.
Song 113 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 26, 2015.

1. How does the account at 2 Kings 13:18, 19 illustrate the importance of being zealous and wholehearted in serving God? [Sept. 7, *w10* 4/15 p. 26 par. 11]
2. Who was reigning in Israel when Jonah served as a prophet, and what can we appreciate about Jonah's ministry in view of what is recorded at 2 Kings 14:23-25? [Sept. 7, *w09* 1/1 p. 25 par. 4]
3. How did Ahaz demonstrate his lack of trust in God's word spoken through the prophet Isaiah, and what question might we ask ourselves when making important decisions? (2 Ki. 16:7) [Sept. 14, *w13* 11/15 p. 17 par. 5]
4. What tactic used by the Rabshakeh is being used by opposers of God's people today, and what quality can help us to reject the false reasoning of opposers? (2 Ki. 18:22, 25) [Sept. 14, *w10* 7/15 p. 13 pars. 3-4]
5. How can Josiah's example of humility help us to benefit more fully from our Bible reading and study? (2 Ki. 22:19, 20, ftn.) [Sept. 21, *w00* 3/1 p. 30 par. 2]
6. How has archaeology confirmed the existence of the two kings mentioned at 2 Kings 25:27-30? [Sept. 28, *w12* 6/1 p. 5 pars. 2-3]
7. What three requests did Jabez make of Jehovah, and what does this teach us about prayer? (1 Chron. 4:9, 10) [Oct. 5, *w10* 10/1 p. 23]
8. How can the outcome of the war described at 1 Chronicles 5:18-22 strengthen us to carry on our spiritual warfare courageously? [Oct. 12, *w05* 10/1 p. 9 par. 7]
9. Why was David able to understand and respect the spirit of Jehovah's law on the sanctity of blood, and what should David's example move us to do? (1 Chron. 11:17-19) [Oct. 19, *w12* 11/15 pp. 6-7 pars. 12-14]
10. What did David neglect to do when he attempted to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, and what vital lesson can we learn from this account? (1 Chron. 15: 13) [Oct. 26, *w03* 5/1 pp. 10-11 pars. 11-13]

Does God's Word Have Power in Your Daily Life?

Daily Bible reading can help us to become "rooted" and "stabilized in the faith." (Col. 2:6, 7) However, for Jehovah's Word to have power in our lives, we must ponder over and apply its principles. (Heb. 4:12; Jas. 1:22-25) Joshua 1:8 presents an effective three-step reading process: (1) Read God's Word "day and night." (2) Read it "in an undertone," which suggests reading at a pace that allows you to meditate and to imagine the setting and the circumstances. (3) Earnestly apply "all that is written in it." Putting into practice these suggestions will enable us to "be successful" and "act wisely" in our daily life.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 2

Song 52 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 1 ¶14-27, review on p. 16 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 16-20 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Chronicles 17:15-27 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: What Was the Ark of the Covenant? —Glossary, *nwt* p. 1693 (5 min.)
No. 3: Eliphaz (No. 2)—Theme: Jehovah Hates a False Tongue—*it*-1 pp. 713-714 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 91
10 min: Offer the Magazines During November. Discussion. Start by having each of the sample presentations demonstrated. Then analyze each presentation from beginning to end.
10 min: Local Needs.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Training Bible Students to Develop Good Study Habits." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.
Song 140 and Prayer
Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *Can the Dead Really Live Again?, How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, What Is the Kingdom of God?, Who Really Controls the World?, Will Suffering Ever End?* **January**: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ Since January has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM November 1

"Whenever war breaks out, both sides believe that they have God's backing. Do you think that God approves of war? [Allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses why God waged war in the past and how he will soon end war once and for all." Read Psalm 46:9 and offer the magazines.

Awake!® November

"Millions of people around the world are disturbed by the hypocrisy and hurtful teachings of various religions. What do you think the future of religion is? [Allow for response.] This magazine highlights a remarkable prophecy in the Bible book of Revelation that foretold not only the modern-day exodus from false religion but also its ultimate destruction."

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report that on April 3, 2015, the attendance at the Memorial observance was 2,578,240 in the United States branch territory. How happy we are that so many people gathered together to honor Jehovah God and Jesus Christ during the Memorial season! Certainly, gratitude to God and his Son moved all of these to be present at the commemoration of Jesus' death.—Luke 22:19.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2015

MONTHLY THEME: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God kept making it grow."
—1 Cor. 3:6.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 9

Song 48 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 2 ¶1-12 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 21-25 (8 min.)
No. 1: 1 Chronicles 23:1-11 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Elisha—Theme: Have Deep Respect for Jehovah's Servants—*it*-1 pp. 714-718 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Really Is Armageddon?—Glossary, *nwt* p. 1693 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 98
10 min: "I Planted, Apollos Watered, But God Kept Making It Grow." Talk based on the monthly theme. (1 Cor. 3:6) As time allows, include points from the March 1, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 20-23. Briefly preview some of the Service Meeting parts for the month, and discuss how they relate to the theme.
20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Offering the *Bible Teach* Book." Discussion. Include two brief demonstrations, one showing a suggestion from the article and the other showing a personal presentation that has been effective.
Song 111 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Offering the *Bible Teach* Book

Why Important: The *Bible Teach* book is a primary tool in our teaching toolbox. However, before we can use it to study with someone, we must first place it with him. Therefore, all of us should endeavor to become skillful at offering the *Bible Teach* book in the ministry. (Prov. 22:29) There are many options, and publishers should use what works for them.

How to Do It:

- Raise an interest-arousing question that you can use to direct the householder to a specific chapter in the book. You may even select one of the questions at the beginning of each chapter. After hearing the householder's response, read an appropriate scripture and then show him a paragraph on that subject and perhaps briefly discuss it together.
- Another option is to use the introductory pages to stimulate interest and then show the householder where the book gives the Bible's answer. For example, you might refer to a recent tragedy covered in the news and explain that many have wondered about the answers to the questions on page 3. Or you could say that you are visiting your neighbors to share a positive view of the future. Then show the pictures on pages 4-5 and ask, "Which of these promises would you like to see fulfilled?" Another possibility is to say that you are making brief visits to help people find answers to life's big questions. Then show the householder the questions at the bottom of page 6, and ask which one interests him the most.
- Use the direct approach for starting a Bible study. You might say: "We are showing this Bible study aid to our neighbors. Have you seen it before? [Allow for response.] If you have just a few minutes, I'd like to demonstrate how it can be used with your own copy of the Bible."

Try This During the Month:

- Have practice sessions during your family worship.
- When in the ministry, share with other publishers what you plan to say. (Prov. 27: 17) Change your presentation if it is not effective.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 16

Song 17 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 2 ¶13-23, review on p. 24 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 26-29 (8 min.)

No. 1: 1 Chronicles 29:20-30 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: What Does "Atonement" Mean? —Glossary, *nwt* p. 1694 (5 min.)

No. 3: Elizabeth—Theme: Be God-Fearing and Blameless—*it*-1 p. 719 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 35

10 min: Keep 'Watering' Those Who Show Interest. (1 Cor. 3:6-8) Interview a regular pioneer and a publisher. What schedule do they have for making return visits? How do they prepare? How do they deal with the challenge of finding the person at home again? What good experiences have they had?

20 min: "Audio Recordings—How to Use Them." Questions and answers. Explain how publishers can access audio recordings on jw.org. Play a sample for the audience. Include a reenactment of the experience related at the end of the article "Use Our Web Site in the Ministry—'Bible Questions Answered'" from the November 2014 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

Song 108 and Prayer

Audio Recordings—How to Use Them

[1] Many enjoy using jw.org to *read* delightful and accurate words of truth. (Eccl. 12: 10) However, have you made use of the audio recordings? These make it possible to *listen* to much of the information on our website. How might audio recordings benefit us?

1. In addition to written publications, what beneficial provision do we have?

[2] **For Our Personal or Family Study:** Listening to audio recordings of the Bible, the magazines, or a publication while traveling or engaging in everyday activities may help us to make better use of our time. (Eph. 5: 15, 16) We can add variety to our family worship by listening to the reading of material while following along in our copy of the publication. Using audio recordings during personal study is especially helpful if we would like to improve in our reading or if we are learning a language.

[3] **For the Ministry:** People in our territory who feel that they are too busy to read may be willing to listen to audio recordings. Or we may encounter those who speak a different tongue and who are more likely to respond if they hear the Kingdom message in their "own native language." (Acts 2:6-8) In some areas, listening is an important part of the culture. For example, in the Hmong culture, people traditionally pass on their history to younger generations orally and they do quite well at retaining information that they hear. Many African cultures enjoy learning through storytelling.

[4] In your territory, would it be beneficial to play a sample of an audio recording in the householder's language? Might someone benefit from an audio publication that we send him in an e-mail? Could we download an audio publication onto a CD and give it to an interested householder, perhaps along with the printed version? Every complete electronic book, brochure, magazine, or tract that we give someone in the ministry may be counted as a placement. Audio recordings are designed for us to use in our personal study and also to plant seeds of Kingdom truth.—1 Cor. 3:6.

2. How may we use audio recordings for our personal or family study?
3. Who in our territory may benefit from audio recordings?
4. What questions might we ask ourselves about helping people in our territory?

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WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 23

Song 26 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 3 ¶1-13, box on p. 29 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 1-5 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Chronicles 3:14–4:6 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Enoch (No. 2)—Theme: Walk With Jehovah—*it*-1 p. 729 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Kinds of Baptisms Are There? —Glossary, *nwt* p. 1694 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 47
10 min: "Preparation Needed to Teach With Skill." Talk.
10 min: Good Conduct Opens the Way to Plant Seeds of Truth. Discussion based on the *2015 Yearbook,* page 49, paragraph 3, to page 51, paragraph 3; and page 140, paragraph 3, to page 141, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: "Use Features of the *Bible Teach* Book Effectively." Discussion. Include a brief demonstration.
Song 123 and Prayer

Preparation Needed to Teach With Skill

Jesus was asked the same question about everlasting life on at least two occasions, but each time he tailored his reply to the needs of the questioner. (Luke 10:25-28; 18:18-20) Therefore, although we may know the Bible study material well, we should prepare it beforehand with the student in mind. What points might he struggle to understand or accept? Which of the cited scriptures should we read with him? How much material should we try to cover? We may need to prepare an illustration, an explanation, or a series of questions to help the student grasp the information. In addition, since it is Jehovah who makes the seed of truth grow in the heart, we should ask for Jehovah's blessing on our preparation for the study, on our student, and on our efforts to help him spiritually.—1 Cor. 3:6; Jas. 1:5.

Use Features of the *Bible Teach* Book Effectively

As a Bible student learns what the Bible really teaches and applies what he learns, he will grow and bear spiritual fruit. (Ps. 1: 1-3) We can help our student progress by making good use of some helpful features of the *Bible Teach* book.

Introductory Questions: Each chapter begins with questions that are answered in the lesson. You could ask these questions rhetorically to whet the student's appetite for your upcoming discussion. Or you could invite him to comment briefly on each question. If he expresses a wrong idea, there is no need to correct him at this point. His comments will help you to discern what points require attention and emphasis.—Prov. 16:23; 18:13.

Appendix: If the student understands and accepts the material in the main text, you can simply encourage him to review the corresponding appendix material on his own. At the next study, you might take a few minutes to make sure that he understands it. However, if it would benefit him, you should take time during the study to discuss the appendix material or a portion thereof by reading the paragraphs and asking questions that you prepared in advance.

Review Box: The review box at the end of each chapter contains statements that answer the introductory questions. You can use this feature to make sure that your student understands and can explain the main points. Read each statement together out loud as well as any accompanying scriptures. Then invite your student to use the scripture(s) to explain why the statement is true.—Acts 17:2, 3.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 30

Song 94 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

ia chap. 3 ¶14-21, box on p. 30, review on p. 32 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 6-9 (8 min.)

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 6:22-27 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: How Serious Is Brazen Conduct? —Glossary, *nwt* p. 1694 (5 min.)

No. 3: Epaphras—Theme: Pray and Slave for Your Brothers—*it*-1 p. 731 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 58

10 min: Offer the Magazines During December. Discussion. Start by having a demonstration, using the two sample presentations provided. Then analyze the presentations from beginning to end.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Offering the *Bible Teach* Book." Ask the audience to relate positive experiences.

Song 141 and Prayer

Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *Can the Dead Really Live Again?, How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, What Is the Kingdom of God?, Who Really Controls the World?, Will Suffering Ever End?* **January and February:** *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to "Watchtower." The branch office's financial address is Watchtower, c/o Accounting Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. If you would like to donate electronically, ask your congregation secretary about the July 8, 2013, letter to all congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

■ Since January has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM December 1

"We're making brief visits to clear up a common misconception about the Bible. Most people respect the Bible, but they think it's too hard to understand. How do you feel about the Bible? [Allow for response.] Notice one reason for us to be interested in understanding the Bible. [Read Romans 15:4.] This magazine explains how we know that the Bible was written to be understood. It also gives some tips for understanding it."

Awake!® December

"We are making brief visits as a public service to families. Everyone wants peace and harmony in the home. What do you think is more realistic for families—trying to avoid disagreements altogether or learning how to handle disagreements better? [Allow for response.] Notice what this Bible proverb says. [Read Proverbs 26:20.] This magazine outlines some practical advice from the Bible to help families have more peace in their household."

Field Service Highlights

When comparing the first nine months of this service year with the same period last year, the United States (the 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii) had increases of 1.1 percent in publishers, 4.6 percent in regular pioneers, and 1.9 percent in Bible studies. Certainly, the "loving labor" being put forth to reach all with the good news brings joy to our heavenly Father. —1 Thess. 1:3.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2015

MONTHLY THEME: "We must enter into the Kingdom of God through many tribulations."—Acts 14:22.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 7

Song 86 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 4 ¶1-15, box on p. 39 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 10-14 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Chronicles 13:13-22 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Epaphroditus—Theme: Have Respect for Trustworthy Men—*it*-1 p. 731 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Is the Meaning of "Caesar"? —Glossary, *nwt* p. 1694 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 85
10 min: "We Must Enter Into the Kingdom of God Through Many Tribulations." Talk based on the monthly theme. Read and discuss Acts 14: 21, 22 and 1 Peter 4:12-14. (See *The Watchtower,* September 15, 2014, p. 13, pars. 3-6.) Briefly preview some of the Service Meeting parts for the month, and highlight how they relate to the theme. Encourage everyone to watch the video *'Walk by Faith, Not by Sight'* in preparation for next week's Service Meeting.
10 min: How Should You Answer? (Col. 4:6) Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 69, paragraphs 1-3. Have two contrasting demonstrations. In the first demonstration, a publisher replies abruptly to a harsh comment made by the householder, resulting in a negative response. In the second, following the same harsh comment, the publisher briefly pauses, replies mildly, and receives a positive response from the householder.
10 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets—Habakkuk." Questions and answers.
Song 74 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Habakkuk

[1] As we face increasing wickedness in the world around us, we may feel as did Habakkuk, who asked Jehovah: "Why do you make me witness wrongdoing? And why do you tolerate oppression?" (Hab. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:1, 13) Meditating on Habakkuk's message and faithful example can help to sustain us as we await Jehovah's day of judgment.—2 Pet. 3:7.

1. Why may we be able to relate to the prophet Habakkuk?

[2] **Live by Faithfulness:** Instead of becoming paralyzed by self-pity, Habakkuk remained spiritually alert and active. (Hab. 2:1) Jehovah assured the prophet that His word would be fulfilled right on time and that "the righteous one will live by his faithfulness." (Hab. 2:2-4) What does that mean for Christians living deep in the time of the end? More important than knowing *when* the end will come is being convinced that it *will* come. Faith moves us to remain watchful and give priority to the ministry.—Heb. 10:38, 39.

[3] **Exult in Jehovah:** When Gog of Magog attacks Jehovah's people, our faith will be tested. (Ezek. 38:2, 10-12) Conflict brings hardship, even to the eventual victors. Food may be scarce, property may be lost, and standards of living may drop. How will we react when difficulties arise? Habakkuk expected hardships, so he resolved to maintain his joy in serving Jehovah. (Hab. 3:16-19) "The joy of Jehovah" will also help us to endure future trials.—Neh. 8:10; Heb. 12:2.

[4] Those whom Jehovah preserves through his coming day of judgment will continue to be educated in God's way of life. (Hab. 2:14) Resurrected ones too will learn about Jehovah. Even now, may we use every opportunity to speak about Jehovah and his wonderful works!—Ps. 34:1; 71:17.

2. How can we show that we live by faithfulness today?
3. Why must we maintain our joy in serving Jehovah?
4. What joy can be ours now and in the future?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 14

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

ia chap. 4 ¶16-31, review on p. 41 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 15-19 (8 min.)

No. 1: 2 Chronicles 16:1-9 (3 min. or less)

No. 2: Where Was Chaldea, and Who Were the Chaldeans?—Glossary, *nwt* p. 1695 (5 min.)

No. 3: Esau—Theme: Our Decisions Reveal Whether We Appreciate Sacred Things—*it*-1 pp. 759-760 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 128

30 min: ***"Walk by Faith, Not by Sight."*** Questions and answers. Use the information in the first and last paragraphs for a brief introduction and conclusion.

Song 133 and Prayer

'Walk by Faith, Not by Sight'

Shortly before the siege and eventual destruction of Jerusalem, the apostle Paul wrote that Christians, as fine soldiers of Christ, must expect hardship and not give priority to their own comfort and pleasure. (2 Tim. 2:3, 4) With calamity about to overtake this ungodly world, we need strong faith to maintain our focus on spiritual things. (2 Cor. 4: 18; 5:7) Watch the video *'Walk by Faith, Not by Sight.'* (Go to jw.org, and look under PUBLICATIONS > VIDEOS.) Notice how undue attachment to material things became a deadly snare to Naham and Abital. Thereafter, review the following questions.

(1) What was "the disgusting thing . . . standing in a holy place" in the first century, and what decisive action did Christians living in Jerusalem need to take? (Matt. 24:15, 16) **(2)** Why did fleeing from the city require faith? **(3)** What sacrifices were involved in fleeing? **(4)** Why did Naham and Abital delay? (Matt. 24:17, 18) **(5)** What additional test of faith did Rachel face when leaving Jerusalem? (Matt. 10:34-37; Mark 10:29, 30) **(6)** How did Ethan set a fine example of faith and trust in Jehovah? **(7)** What hardships did Christians experience in Pella? **(8)** How did the faith of Naham and Abital gradually weaken? **(9)** How did Jehovah care for the Christians living in Pella? (Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 6:6-8) **(10)** How can we imitate Abraham and Sarah as we face the end of this system of things? (Heb. 11:8-10) **(11)** How did Naham and Abital convince themselves to return to Jerusalem, and why was their thinking faulty? (Luke 21:21) **(12)** What was the reality of life in Jerusalem when Naham and Abital returned? **(13)** Why must we strengthen our faith now—before the end of this system of things comes? —Luke 17:31, 32; 21:34-36.

Walking by faith means (1) trusting in Jehovah's direction, (2) letting his direction guide our steps, and (3) showing that we value spiritual things over material things. May we be ever resolved to walk by faith, trusting that "the world is passing away and so is its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains forever."—1 John 2:17.

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WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 21

Song 90 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 5 ¶1-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 20-24 (8 min.)
No. 1: 2 Chronicles 20:13-20 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Esther—Theme: How True Beauty Is Made Manifest—*it*-1 pp. 761-762 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Does "Chief Agent" Mean?—Glossary, *nwt* p. 1695 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 96
***5 min:* Question Box.** Talk.
10 min: Show Appreciation for Jehovah's Generosity. Talk by an elder based on the November 15, 2015, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15.
15 min: Cautious as Serpents and yet Innocent as Doves. (Matt. 10:16) Discussion based on the *2015 Yearbook,* page 72, paragraph 5, to page 73; and pages 111-116. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
Song 137 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ When is it appropriate to discontinue a Bible study?

If a student's spiritual progress comes to a halt, you may have to discontinue his Bible study tactfully. (Matt. 10:11) Consider: Does he keep his appointments to study? Does he prepare his lesson in advance? Has he attended some congregation meetings? Does he share with others what he is learning? Is he making changes in harmony with Bible principles? Of course, make allowance for his age and abilities, recognizing that each person progresses at a different rate. Also, if you discontinue the study, keep the door open for him to resume his study in the future.—1 Tim. 2:4.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 28, 2015. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. Did David treat his captives savagely, as some conclude from 1 Chronicles 20:3? [Nov. 2, *w05* 2/15 p. 27]
2. What moved David to show a spirit of generosity, and what will help us to do the same? (1 Chron. 22:5) [Nov. 9, *w05* 10/1 p. 11 par. 7]
3. What did David mean when he said to Solomon: "Know the God of your father"? (1 Chron. 28:9) [Nov. 16, *w10* 11/1 p. 30 pars. 3, 7]
4. What did Solomon's request at 2 Chronicles 1:10 reveal about him, and what might we learn by analyzing our personal prayers to Jehovah? (2 Chron. 1:11, 12) [Nov. 23, *w05* 12/1 p. 19 par. 6]
5. According to 2 Chronicles 6:29, 30, what unique ability does Jehovah possess, and why should we open our heart to him in prayer? (Ps. 55:22) [Nov. 30, *w10* 12/1 p. 11 par. 7]
6. On what basis did Asa pray for victory over an enormous military force, and of what may we be sure in connection with our spiritual warfare? (2 Chron. 14:11) [Dec. 7, *w12* 8/15 p. 8 par. 6–p. 9 par. 1]
7. How does the way in which Jehovah dealt with King Jehoshaphat's failings assure us of God's love, and how should this affect our view of others? (2 Chron. 19:3) [Dec. 14, *w03* 7/1 p. 17 par. 13; *cl* p. 245 par. 12]
8. Why and how must we "take [our] position" and "stand still" in our day? (2 Chron. 20:17) [Dec. 21, *w05* 12/1 p. 21 par. 2; *w03* 6/1 p. 21 pars. 15-16]
9. What sobering reminder do we discern in 2 Chronicles 21:20 in connection with the death of Jehoram? [Dec. 21, *w98* 11/15 p. 32 par. 4]
10. According to 2 Chronicles 26:5, who exercised a good influence on young Uzziah, and how can youths today benefit from mature Christians in the congregation? [Dec. 28, *w07* 12/15 p. 10 pars. 2, 4]

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 28

Song 79 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
ia chap. 5 ¶14-26, review on p. 50 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 25-28 (8 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 122
15 min: Pray for Your Brothers. Discussion. Start by having Acts 12:1-11 read. Consider pertinent points from the *Bearing Witness* book, pages 77-80, paragraphs 5-12. Thereafter, mention recent items posted on jw.org under "Newsroom." Encourage all to pray for members of our worldwide brotherhood who have been affected by various trials, even mentioning them by name if possible.—2 Cor. 1:11; 1 Tim. 2:1, 2.
15 min: Local needs.
Song 124 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *Can the Dead Really Live Again?, How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, What Is the Kingdom of God?, Who Really Controls the World?, Will Suffering Ever End?* **January and February**: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **March:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ The Memorial for **2017** will be Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

■ Since January has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM® January 1

"Do you think that the world would be a better place if everyone lived by this principle? [Read Hebrews 13:18, and allow for response.] The Bible encourages us to be honest in all things. This month's issue of *The Watchtower* discusses how honesty affects every aspect of our life."

Awake!® January

"I'm here to give you this month's issue of *Awake!* [Hand the magazines to the person.] Notice the question on page 2 and some common answers. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] This article discusses some Bible principles that can help us to improve our outlook on life."

Field Service Highlights

When comparing June 2015 to the same month last year, the number of publishers increased by 3.7 percent in the Bahamas, 8.8 percent in Bermuda, 1.2 percent in Puerto Rico, 1.6 percent in the British Virgin Islands, and 9 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The harvest is not over! Let us therefore continue to carry out our ministry with zeal, joy, and a positive attitude until the end. —Matt. 24:13.

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